

“True Or Temporary?”
John 6:60-66

Introduction:

1. **IE:** In 1779 - Just A Few Years After The United States Marine Corps Was Founded - A Captain William Jones Had An Advertisement Printed Up In Boston - In Order To Enlist Some Marines For Naval Duty! In The Ad - He Said He Was Looking For:
 - “A Few Good Men!”
 - These Words Eventually Became Synonymous:
 - With The Marine Corps:
 - Because It Implies That:
 - When It Comes To The Marines:
 - Just “A Few” Of Them:
 - Are Enough!
2. Well - As We Turn Back:
 - In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 6 - We Find That:
 - Jesus Himself:
 - Was Never Looking For:
 - A Huge Crowd Of Followers:
 - To Establish The Credibility:
 - Of His Claims!
- Instead - He Was Content With:
 - The “Few Good Men” - And Women:
 - Who His Own Father:
 - According To 6:37:
 - Would Give To Him!
3. And That Is Why:
 - After The Lengthy “Dialogue At The Synagogue”:
 - From 6:25-59 - With A Large Group:
 - Of Skeptical Jews - Who Remained Skeptical!
 - He Turned To:
 - Another Group:
 - Who John Describes In 6:60 - As:
 - “His Disciples!”
- A “Disciple” - In Jesus Day:
 - Would Follow A Teacher:
 - Wherever He Went:
 - In Order To Learn From:
 - His Words & His Ways!
4. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
 - 6:60-66 - We Will See:
 - Just What Kind Of “Disciples”:
 - *These* “Disciples” Actually Were!
 - Because - John Tells Us:
 - 6:60-66 - “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? / When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? / What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? / It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. / But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. / And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. / From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him!”
5. This Was One Of Jesus’ Own “Gideon” Moments:
 - In His Ministry!
 - If You Remember From:
 - Gideon’s Ministry As Judge Of Israel:
 - Back In Judges 6-8:
 - God Told Gideon To Reduce His Army From 32,000 Soldiers:
 - To Just 300 - In Order To Fight Against:

- The Midianites!

- Well - With What We Just Read:

- Jesus Separated Out:

- His *True* Disciples - From:

- His *Temporary* Disciples:

- Until He Was Left With:

- Just "*A Few Good Men*" Given To Him:

- By His Father!

6. But The Reason Why:

- So "Many Of His Disciples" - Were Not:

- True Disciples - Was Because:

- They Were Missing:

- What True Discipleship:

- Requires!

- And - This Is What Jesus Reveals:

- To Them & To Us:

- Through These Words!

- And So - This Morning:

- We Are Going To Look at:

- The Marks Of A:

- Temporary Disciple Of Christ:

- To See What It Takes:

- To Be A True Disciple Of Christ!

* And - The First Thing Those Temporary Disciples Were Missing Was:

1. ***A Spiritual Delight:***

- In The Things Of God!

- They Had No Spiritual Delight!

- Even As We Just Read:

- From 6:60 - "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"

- So - Even After:

- Seeing All That Jesus Did! And:

- Hearing All That Jesus Said:

- These "Disciples" Considered:

- The ***Words*** Of Jesus:

- Too "Hard" For Anyone Hear!

- The Content Of Jesus' Message:

- Was Just Too Hard:

- For Them To Accept!

- That Jesus Was:

- True, Living Bread:

- Of God From Heaven!

- This Was Just Too:

- "Hard" For Them To Believe!

- After All - Didn't They Know Who Jesus Was & Where He Came From?

- Same Question - 6:42 - "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?"

- But - These "Disciples" Also Considered:

- The Ways Of Jesus:

- Too "***Harsh!***"

- Which Is Another Way:

- This Verse Could Be Translated!

- What Jesus Just Said - Was Just Too Harsh!

- That In Order For Them To Live:

- They Would Have To:

- Partake Of Him - By:

- Eating His Flesh & Drinking His Blood!

- This Was No Way To Speak:

- In That Place:
 - The Synagogue Of Capernaum!
- This Was No Way To Speak:
 - To Those People:
 - The Chosen People Of God!
- The Way Jesus Spoke:
 - Was Just Too Harsh!
 - Too Brash! Too Uncivil!
- But - As These So-Called “Disciples” Were:
 - Complaining To Each Other:
 - About The Words & Ways Of Jesus:
 - Once Again - They Couldn’t Hide Anything From Jesus!
 - And So - In 6:61:
 - “When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this *offend* you?”
- This Is Something:
 - That We’ve Seen Already:
 - In This Chapter - Three Times!
 - That Jesus Knows:
 - “What Is In Man!” (2:25)
- And So - Jesus Knew Perfectly:
 - The Deliberations:
 - Of These “Disciples!”
 - And That They Were “Murmuring” About:
 - His Words & His Ways!
 - This Meant That:
 - They Had More In Common:
 - With The Foes Of Jesus:
 - Than His Friends!
 - Because - Back In 6:41 - We Find:
 - That The Jews Themselves:
 - “Murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven!”
 - And Now - Here - His Own “Disciples” Were:
 - Murmuring About Him:
 - As Well!
- But - Jesus Also Knew Perfectly:
 - About Their Doubts As Well!
 - And - Not Just Their Doubts - But:
 - The Disapproval & Displeasure:
 - And Even Disgust:
 - About What Jesus Said!
 - They Were “Offended!”
 - Scandalized!
 - And Ready To:
 - Turn Back From:
 - Christ!
- And With This - Jesus Knew That:
 - They Would Also Consider:
- The **Work** Of Jesus:
 - To “Harsh” As Well!
 - In 6:62 - He Asks Them This Question:
 - “What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”
- The True Nature:
 - Of Jesus - As The “Son Of Man” - Demanded:
 - That He - Eventually:
 - Return & Ascend Back To:
 - His Heavenly Home!

- But - The First Step:
 - Back To Heaven:
 - Would Involve Even Greater Humiliation:
 - Then The Last Step He Took:
 - In His Descent From Heaven!
- You See - When Jesus Descended:
 - And - Came Down From Heaven:
 - His Last Step:
 - Was His Incarnation:
 - When He - Philippians 2:7 - "Took Upon Him The Form Of A Servant, And Was Made In The Likeness Of Men!"
 - What Humility:
 - This Humiliation Displayed!
 - When Jesus Was Born:
 - To Mary In Bethlehem!
- But - When Jesus Ascended:
 - And - Went Up To Heaven:
 - His First Step Back Involved Even Greater Humility & Humiliation!
 - Through His *Crucifixion!*
 - Jesus Himself:
 - Joined His Death On The Cross:
 - With His Ascension To Heaven:
 - Back In 3:13-14 - When He Told Nicodemus That:
 - "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. / And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up!"
- And So - Jesus Knew That:
 - If These "Disciples" Were Offended:
 - At The *Words* He Spoke - And:
 - The *Way* He Spoke Them!
 - They Would Be Even More Offended By:
 - The *Work* He Spoke Of!
 - Because - They Had:
 - No True Delight In:
 - The Saving Work Of God!
 - As F. F. Bruce Once Wrote:
 - "What They Wanted, He Would Not Give; What He Offered, They Would Not Receive!"
 - This Is A Sad Mark:
 - Of A Temporary Disciple Of Christ!
 - But - What About You?
 - Is This Kind Of Delight:
 - For The Things Of God:
 - Missing In Your Heart & Life?
 - If Its Missing:
 - Then You Too Are In Danger:
 - Of Being One Of:
 - These Kinds Of Disciples!
 - Because - A True Disciple:
 - Of Jesus Christ:
 - Will Love Jesus - And:
 - *All* His Words & Ways & Work!
 - Are You A True Disciple?
 - Or A Temporary Disciple?
- If You Do Have This Kind Of Delight:
 - Then Give Him The Glory!
 - But - If Not:
 - Then - Go To Him For That Delight & Desire!

* We Also Find In These Verses - That There Was A Second Thing Missing:

- In Those Temporary Disciples - And That Was:

2. ***A Spiritual Difference:***

- From The Things Of God!

- That Is - There Was No Spiritual Difference:

- In Their Lives! Even As We Find:

- In 6:63-64 - "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. / But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him!"

- In These Verses:

- Jesus Reveals To These "Temporary Disciples" Of His That:

- What They Needed Most:

- They Did Not Have!

- And - What They Needed Most Was:

- The ***Power*** Of Life!

- The Power Of Life:

- Would Have Made All The Difference!

- And Bring Them From Being:

- Temporary Disciples:

- To True Disciples!

- And - The Power Of Life:

- Is The Holy ***Spirit*** Of God:

- Himself! As Jesus Said:

- "It Is The Spirit That Quickeneth!"

- "It Is The Spirit That Makes Alive!"

- "Spirit" Here - Cannot Mean:

- Human Spirit!

- It Can Only Mean:

- God's Spirit!

- So - "Spirit" With:

- A Capital "S!"

- And - Without The Regenerating Work:

- Of The Holy Spirit:

- In Their Lives:

- They Could Never Desire Or Delight In The Things Of God!

- So - All Throughout This Chapter:

- Jesus Has Emphasized:

- The Divine-Side Of:

- The Work Of Salvation!

- It Is God The Father:

- Who Is The Author Of Salvation:

- And Who Alone Must Draw People:

- To Christ!

- 6:44 - "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him!"

- It Is God The Son:

- Who Accomplishes Salvation!

- Because - As Jesus Said:

- In 6:37 - "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!"

- And Here - It Is God The Holy Spirit:

- Who Is The Agent Of Salvation:

- And Quickens Those Who Are "Dead In Trespasses And Sins" To Life!

- 6:63 - "It is the spirit that quickeneth!"

- And - Even More - 6:63:

- Their Own "Flesh Profiteth Nothing!"

- That Is - There Is Nothing:

- They Had That Could Contribute Anything:
 - To God's Work Of Salvation!
- As Jonathan Edwards Once Wrote:
 - "You Contribute Nothing To Your Salvation Except The Sin That Made It Necessary!"
- And So - Without The Power Of Life:
 - Through The Spirit Of God:
 - There Would Be No Difference:
 - In Our Lives!
- But Also - The Power Of Life:
 - Includes The *Words* Of Christ:
 - As Well! As Jesus Continues:
 - In 6:63 - "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life!"
 - So - The Very Words:
 - That Those Temporary Disciples:
 - Were Offended At:
 - Were The Means By Which The Holy Spirit:
 - Would Bring Them To Spiritual Life!
 - And - This Is The Truth:
 - About Every Word Jesus Spoke - And:
 - Every Word - In This Book:
 - That God Inspired!
 - Isaiah 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it!"
 - So - In Order To Be A True Disciple:
 - Of Jesus Christ - The Power Of Life:
 - Needs To Be Present:
 - In Your Life!
 - The Holy Spirit:
 - Must Bring You To Life:
 - By Means Of:
 - The Spiritual & Living Words Of Christ!
 - Have You Experienced:
 - This Power Of Life?
 - How Can You Know?
 - Well - In Connection With:
 - The Power Of Life:
 - There Will Also Be:
 - The *Proof* Of Life!
 - Which Jesus Tells Us About In:
 - 6:64a - "But there are some of you that believe not!"
 - The Proof Of Life:
 - Is Faith & Belief:
 - In Jesus - And:
 - His Ways, His Words, & His Work!
 - But - Sadly - In Those Temporary Disciples:
 - This Proof Of Life:
 - Was Not Present!
 - Because - After All They Had Seen & Heard & Even Felt:
 - From Jesus - They Still Did Not:
 - Believe In Jesus!
 - But Then - John Tells Us That:
 - 6:64b - "Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him!"
 - With These Words:
 - Once Again - We See:
 - The Divine Grace Of Jesus Combined With His Divine Greatness!

- Even Though He Knew:
 - Even "From The Beginning" - Who:
 - Would Believe - And Even:
 - Who Would Betray Him:
 - Judas! (6:71)
 - Yet - Jesus Still:
 - Came To All & Spoke To All!
- This Is Something We Learned:
 - At The Very Beginning Of This Gospel!
 - 1:11-13 - "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. / But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: / Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God!"
- And So - This Is Another Sad Mark:
 - Of A Temporary Disciple Of Christ!
 - There Was No Spiritual Difference:
 - In Their Lives!
 - No Power Of Life!
 - No Proof Of Life!
 - But - What About You?
 - Is There This Kind Of Difference:
 - In Your Heart & Life?
 - If Its Missing:
 - Then You Too Are In Danger:
 - Of Being One Of:
 - These Kinds Of Disciples!
 - Are You A True Disciple?
 - Or A Temporary Disciple?
 - If You Do Have This Kind Of Delight:
 - Then Give Him The Glory!
 - But - If Not:
 - Then - Go To Him & Cry Out To Him - In Faith:
 - For That Difference!

* But - We Can Also See - That There Was A Third Thing Missing:

- In Those Temporary Disciples - And That Was:

3. ***A Spiritual Drive:***

- For The Things Of God!

- They Had No Spiritual Drive!

- Which Is What We Find In:

- 6:65-66 - "And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father! / From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him!"

- In 6:65 - Jesus Refers Back:

- To What He Said:

- In 6:44a - "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him!"

- So - Once Again:

- Jesus Stresses:

- The Absolute Inability Of Man:

- To ***Come*** To Christ!

- To "Come To" Jesus:

- Means Turning To Him & Trusting In Him!

- This Is What Jesus Meant:

- When He Said - 6:53 - "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you!"

- If There Is No Drive:

- To Come To Christ:

- And - To Keep Coming To Christ:

- Then - This Is A Mark Of:

- A Temporary Disciple!
- You Need The Work Of:
 - God Himself:
 - To Draw You & To Give You The Drive:
 - To Come To Him!
- However - What You Are:
 - Unable To Do - God Is:
 - More Than Able Provide!
 - So - When You Do:
 - Turn To & Trust In Christ:
 - It Is Proof That:
 - You Have Been:
 - Drawn By God The Father!
 - Quickened By The Spirit!
 - And - Will Be Kept By Jesus Christ Himself!
- This Is The Wonder:
 - Of Salvation!
 - And Yet - These Words Of Jesus:
 - Were Even More Offensive To Those Temporary Disciples!
- It Is Clear That:
 - Jesus Wasn't A Very Good "Politician!"
 - Not Only Did He:
 - Alienate Those Jews:
 - Who Were - At Least - Curious About Him!
 - He Did The Same:
 - To Those Who Seemed To Be
 - Followers Of Him!
 - But - Jesus Had To Speak The Truth!
 - He Would Not Pander Or Patronize:
 - Like Politicians Do!
 - So - After Hearing Jesus One Last Time:
 - There Was No More Drive:
 - In Those Temporary Disciples:
- To Stay With Christ - Or:
 - To **Walk** With Christ!
 - In 6:66 - "From That Time - Or Even - Because Of This - Many Of His Disciples Went Back, And Walked No More With Him!"
 - So - There Was No More Drive:
 - To Stay With Christ:
 - So - They "Went Back!"
 - And Turned Their Back On Jesus!
 - And - There Was No More Drive:
 - To Walk With Christ!
 - Which Is What True Discipleship:
 - Involves!
- These Are Sad Words!
 - Because - This Is Another Mark:
 - Of A Temporary Disciple Of Christ!
 - There Is No Spiritual Drive:
 - To Come To Christ!
 - To Stay With Christ! Or:
 - To Walk With Christ!
 - What About You This Morning?
 - Is There This Kind Of Drive:
 - In Your Heart & Life?
 - If Its Missing:
 - Then You Too Are In Danger:
 - Of Being One Of:
 - These Kinds Of Disciples!

- Are You A True Disciple?
- Or A Temporary Disciple?
- However - If You Do Have:
 - This Kind Of Drive:
 - For The Lord - Then:
 - Give Him The Glory!
 - But - If Not:
 - Then - Go To Him & Cry Out To Him - In Faith:
 - To Give You That Drive For Christ!

Conclusion:

1. Remember - In The Ministry Of Jesus:
 - He Was Never Looking For:
 - A Huge Crowd Of Followers:
 - To Establish The Credibility:
 - Of His Claims!
 - Instead - He Was Content With:
 - The "Few Good Men" - And Women:
 - Who His Own Father:
 - Would Give To Him!
 - And - They Would Be:
 - "Good" - Not Because Of:
 - Any "Goodness" In Them!
 - But - Because They Followed Jesus:
 - He Would Make Them:
 - "Good!"
2. So - What Kind Of Disciple Of Christ:
 - Are You This Morning?
 - True Or Temporary?
 - If You Are Missing:
 - A Delight In The Lord!
 - A Difference From The Lord! Or:
 - A Drive For The Lord!
 - If These Are Missing - Then:
 - You Are In Danger Of Being Only A Temporary Follower Of Christ!
 - If This Is True For You:
 - Then - Go To The Lord - Right Now:
 - And Plea For Him:
 - To Give You:
 - What You Need Most!
3. But - If These Things:
 - Are In Your Heart:
 - Then Give The Lord:
 - The Praise & Glory:
 - He Deserves! And:
 - Keep Walking With Christ:
 - Day By Day & Step By Step!
 - Because - This Is What It Means:
 - To Be A True Disciple:
 - Of Christ!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com