

**(S) Metro John 6:60-71 Where Else?**

**(Sx2) Read 6:60-71 - PRAY**

Rule #1 in Communication: Always know your audience! Jesus knew His audience: He knew Nathaniel under the tree (1:47); He also knew what was in the heart of man and did not entrust Himself to them (2:24-25). Yet He purposed to reach His disciples by addressing their grumbling with a question. Master Rabbi (always getting into their belief structures, to their hearts). He *had* to but not as much as they *needed* Him to.

Leads me to ask: What grumbling might Jesus be putting His finger on in my life? In what way could a particular grumble surrendered be God's way to my heart? Is there something offending you concerning Jesus? Honesty hour.

Context last week v. 6:52-59

**v.60-61 Jesus focuses on His disciples**

**(S)** “It is little wonder that the disciples found the discourse of Jesus hard. The Greek word is *skleros*, which means not hard to understand; but hard to accept.” (Barclay) Word hard could also mean harsh or abrasive. In a word, Jesus’ words were *offensive*.

**v.62** Heavenly perspective. Would you be offended if you saw me in all my glory? What was John’s response in Revelation? Awestruck wonder!

**(S) Rev. 1:12-18** 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

**(S)** Jesus essentially said, “If all this has offended you, what will you think when you see Me in glory, and have to answer to Me in judgment?” Better to be offended now and to get over it, than to be offended on that day (Guzik)

**v.63** Spiritual matters must be spiritually discerned. Yes, in the flesh, eating flesh is cannibalism, but that’s not at all what Jesus was talking about. Spiritually, we must partake in ALL of Him or NONE of Him. The flesh, our thinking, isn’t going to help understand words that are Spirit AND are TRUTH. Authoritative, capital T, truth - why Jesus was like no other rabbi; He spoke with the utmost authority. His source was firsthand, which is the strongest source in any argument.

**v.63-64** His words weren't hard and harsh, they were Spirit and Life. John 1 again, Jesus very Word of God and Life. One way of "feeding on Jesus" is to know and obey His words, they are spiritually life giving food.

**(S)** "Thy words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart." (**Jeremiah 15:16**).

**(S) John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Serious Implications

Issue of belief, incredible that even amongst Jesus' disciples unbelief was present. They saw so much during their time with Jesus. Thomas the skeptic and Judas the betrayer (one was honest, the other a thief). Come to God honestly. He's big enough for our doubts but will not tolerate deception. We can fool ourselves, but there is NO fooling God. He looks right through us.

**v.65** All who have come to Jesus have been drawn by the Father. Credit given where credit is due (remember manna really came from God, not Moses). **God the Father draws us to the Son, through a move of the HS.** This is the only way to be saved. If they were looking for another free lunch and coming earthly kingdom, then they weren't in the Spirit and didn't really know Jesus at all. Coming to Jesus physically by walking around a lake wasn't the same as coming to Him as Lord and Savior and giving Him all their faith, hope, and trust!

### **Chuck Smith: Calvinism vs. Arminianism**

**(S)** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (**Jn 15:16**).

"For God so loved the world that whosoever believes" (**John 3:16**)

I sometimes describe it as God choosing us to choose Him, similar to crossing a threshold or doorway. Upon entering above the doorway it reads "Whosoever will..." and we cross and look back to the inside of the doorway where it reads "I have drawn and chosen you..."

Both/and proposition - not zero-sum. Biblically much wiser individuals than I have argued both ways, and as such, I can't really do it justice here. Tension to manage vs. Problem to solve.

**v.66** God is the consummate gentleman and will never violate our free will choice(s). v. 66 proves this when "MANY of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him." Jesus literally lost a significant amount of followers on this day. Yet, notice, He didn't explain further, run after them or plead. He simply shared the truth, knowing the HS would apply to those the Father had drawn. A good example for us, unless God draws a person, we cannot nor would we want to be able to save anyone. His words must meet with faith in the hearers (**Heb.4:2**).

**(S)** "What they wanted, He would not give; what He offered, they would not receive." FF.Bruce

**v.67** Jesus looks to His 12 disciples and asks them the same question He asks all of us.

**v.68-69** Peter answers that not only do they not want to walk away, but it was also simply a matter-of-fact statement: **Where else?** Acknowledging Jesus alone had the words of life. Want or earthly desire had nothing to do with it, the logical fact was that they were with the Author of Life, the Holy One of God - where else do you go from there? Rhetorical question, YOU DON'T!

Notice the order, we believe and are sure. Faith is belief proceeding assurance (Guzik).

**v.70-71** And yet one of them (Judas Iscariot) would do just that. God gives us free choice until the very end. At any point, we can reject Him but He will never reject our right to choose.

**(S)** "I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside . . . they enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved: just as the blessed, forever submitting to obedience, become through all eternity more and more free.

In the long run, the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: 'What are you asking God to do?' To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what he does" (C.S. Lewis, Problem of Pain).

**(S)** God's will that everyone is saved is from **1 Tim 2:4** "God who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." and **John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God's will to accept and celebrate when even the worst sinner repents is hinted at in the parable of the prodigal son (**Lk 15:31-32**)

God's will to let people choose to go to hell ("locked from the inside") is hinted in the heavenly banquet parable (**Matt 22:1-14**) that they refuse to accept the invitation to heaven.

### Communion

**(S) John 13:1** "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.**"

"Judas was a tragic figure, influenced by Satan; yet he was responsible for his own evil choices." - Walvoord and Zuck

### Where else? Father drawing you? Spirit giving you faith to believe in Jesus' word?

- Realize you are a sinner
- Recognize what Christ has done for you
- Repent of your sin and turn to him

- Receive the gift of life

**Call Richard/Calin to share an application.**

**Prayer**