

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

19) The Tide Turns

**Chapter 5 records how Jesus was rejected in
Judea**

**In chapter 6 we see He was rejected in Galilee
also**

This was a turning point in the ministry of Jesus

**From immense popularity the tide now turns and
there is increasing opposition and hostility**

**Three groups are brought into focus – the Jews, a
wide group of disciples and the Twelve**

1) The Jews in the Synagogue

'The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father'

(Jn.6:41-46)

- ✓ **These were Jews in the synagogue at Capernaum who were in opposition to Jesus (v.59)**
- ✓ **They didn't mind seeing miracles or receiving free bread but complained about His claims to have come from heaven. They had always believed He was the son of both Mary and Joseph**
- ✓ **Six times in this immediate context Jesus said He 'came down from heaven' (6:33,38,41,50,51,58)**
- ✓ **This was also a problem because they understood the Messiah was to come 'in the clouds,' suddenly to appear. Jesus had quietly grown up among them**

- ✓ **Jesus replied only those whom the Father draws would come to Him**
- ✓ **The word 'draws' implies a level of resistance, even to drag (e.g. Jn.21:6,11; Acts 16:19), but the drawing is successful**
- ✓ **There is great resistance in the unregenerate heart - self-righteousness, pride, love of sin, love of the world, spiritual blindness, etc. *'There is none that seeks after God...'***
- ✓ **In v.45 we see how He draws - through hearing and learning from the Father**
- ✓ **The meek and humble are taught, not the proud (Psa.25:9; Matt.11:25)**

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world'
(Jn.6:47-51)

Note here, Jesus said that eating His flesh signified to believe in His sacrificial death

This is the first of seven 'I am' titles of Christ recorded in John only. Also...

'I am the light of the world' (Jn.8:12)

'I am the door' (Jn.10:9)

'I am the good shepherd' (Jn.10:11)

'I am the resurrection and the life' (Jn.11:25)

'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn.14:6)

'I am the true vine' (Jn.15:1)

'The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day"'

(Jn.6:52-54)

They quarreled amongst themselves. They had different views about Him and what He was saying. Some, like Nicodemus and the woman at the well, understood Him literally, not figuratively

Jesus repeated His claim with emphasis again, and added that they needed to drink His blood too

'For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever'
(Jn.6:55-58)

Those who partake of Christ spiritually are in union with Him. They abide in Him and He in them

The bread that came down from heaven in the wilderness only fed God's people physically - they all died eventually

But all who partake of Christ will live forever

2) Many of His disciples

'These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"'

(Jn.6:59-60)

Some of His disciples (larger group) found this hard to accept. It was not hard to understand but hard to accept or listen to

His saying was not hard; their hearts were hard

It was not what they didn't understand that was hard but what they did understand

'When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"' (Jn.6:61-63)

If they found it hard to understand the meaning of eating and drinking His flesh and blood (His death) how would they understand the resurrection and ascension?

He would return to heaven as the Son of Man

Faith is tested when the true gospel is made clear

But we can only understand it by the Spirit

“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more’

(Jn.6:64-66)

Many of His disciples, like Judas, were only attached to Him in an external way

They followed Him halfway around Lake Galilee, but for the wrong reason

**From that saying many of His followers went
away from Him**

**They went back to their old way of life – their
former way of thinking and living**

**What they wanted He would not give; what He
offered they would not receive**

**Were they really His disciples? No.
*'Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed
Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My
disciples indeed' (Jn.8:31)***

In fact, these were unbelievers (v.64)

**If Jesus discouraged people from following Him
for material things, why do others encourage
people to do so?**

3) The Twelve

'Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"'

(Jn.6:67-69)

Peter spoke on behalf of the Twelve that there was no one else they could go to; no one else could give eternal life, only He the life-giver

This is received by believing in Him, the Son of God... 'we have come to believe...'

The word 'we' is emphatic, in contrast to those who deserted Him

***'We have believed and known...'** indicates the settled nature of their faith; a final conviction

***The miracles of Christ had attracted the others, but His teaching repelled them. It was the very opposite with the apostles**

***The natural person says, 'Seeing is believing'; but the spiritual person believes in order to see. 'By faith we understand' (Heb.11:3)**

***Many reject truths such as creation, the deity of Christ, the Trinity, sovereignty of God, etc. because they want to understand them before they will believe**

***God's order is, 'We believe and are sure'**

'Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve'
(Jn.6:70-71)

Peter thought he spoke on behalf of the Twelve but Jesus knew what he said was not true of Judas

He was described as a 'devil' by Jesus. He served the Devil and his purposes

Judas proved that he too followed Jesus only for what he could get – money, and a place in a physical kingdom

**Judas is another proof of the authenticity of the
life and ministry of Jesus**

Here was a man Jesus described as 'a devil'

**He was in the closest possible touch with the life
of Christ, both in public and in private**

**He would have seized on the slightest flaw in
Jesus, if it had been possible to find one; but it
was not**

**After his betrayal his testimony was:
'I have betrayed the innocent blood' (Matt.27:4)**