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**Sermon: *“Will You Stay for the Words of Eternal Life?”***

**Scripture: John 6:59-71**

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**Introduction:**

Throughout John 6, we’ve seen Jesus teaching and interacting with the crowd comprised of Jewish leaders and disciples in his hometown of Capernaum. As chapter 6 comes to a close, we witness the response of the disciples:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ b. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We begin with the grumbling within the crowd of disciples (v. 60): “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

 ***“hard”*** = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ***“listen”*** = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Jesus Four Tough Questions:**

1. **Do you take offense at this?** (v. 61)

**Many Christians have taken offense where no offense was actually given.**

What exactly is “this” (v. 61) or “it” (vs. 60) which the many were claiming to be a “hard saying?”

a. **Offensive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** That he should speak of himself as “coming down from heaven.”

b. **Offensive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** That he should speak of his “flesh as food and blood as drink.”

c. **Offensive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** That he should claim the consequence of partaking of him to be eternal life.

1. **What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?** (v. 62-66)
* The signs which John records will not convince anyone on their own. What will it take? The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* Our flesh has NOTHING which it can contribute to give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or to summon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What can? The Spirit and the Word.

***Scripture:*** *Romans 10:13-17; Ephesians 2:8-9*

* Throughout Scripture there exists a tension between human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

***Scripture:*** *John 4:44-47; Matthew 11:28; Mark 8:34; John 5:39-40; Isaiah 10:15; Acts 2:22-23*

*We see seemingly contrasting truths of divine sovereignty and human responsibility repeatedly,*

*in every part of God’s Word. But Scripture never attempts to ease the apparent tension.*

 *There’s no inspired explanation that spells out their complex relationship.” (John MacArthur)*

* We should be very careful to never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ either God’s sovereignty or man’s responsibility.
* If you reject Jesus’ Words, you reject Jesus\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and you reject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Do you want to go away, also?** (v. 66-69)

 ***Scripture:*** *Mark 8:29*

**Peter’s Response to Jesus’ Question:**

a. We know that you alone have the words of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. We believe and know that you alone are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4. Did I not choose you, the 12, yet one of you is a devil?** (v. 70-71)

* Jesus had chosen these 12 men to be disciples and apostles in order that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ might be fulfilled.
* “one of you is a devil” (diabolos) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Note the responses of the three groups of “disciples”:**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The many who resent the “hard sayings” of Scripture.

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Those who will not and cannot walk away for they are contending for the faith.

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Those who do not walk away but are self-deceived. (Matthew 7:21-23)

**Conclusion: Will you stay with Jesus?**

* Do not stay for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Stay with Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! HE alone is the Word of Eternal Life.

***Scripture:*** *John 5:24, 39; 6:27, 40, 47, 54; 1 John 4:9*

**Questions to Consider:**

1. **What are some of the hardest sayings to either understand or accept in John 6?**
2. **Which of Jesus’ four tough questions is most challenging to you? Why?**
3. **What are some of the hardest questions or concerns that arise from the tension between divine sovereignty and human responsibility? What are some right and wrong ways to resolve them?**
4. **What are some of the reasons that many claim to be followers of Jesus, but reject His Word?**
5. **What is so disturbing about Judas’ betrayal? (v. 70-71)**
6. **What is so dangerous about being a “pretender”?**

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