

JOHN 6:59-71

<p>1. The disturbing message of Jesus to the synagogue crowd a. Many disciples were present b. They had difficulty accepting His message</p> <p>2. The idea of eating Jesus' flesh & drinking His blood, vv. 51-56</p> <p>3. The ascension & exaltation of Christ</p> <p>4. The teaching that the Spirit quickens or gives life & that the flesh counts for nothing</p> <p>a. Some did not believe b. Some plotted to betray Him</p>	<p>H. The Reasons Some People Are Offended by Christ, the Bread of Life, 6:59-71</p> <p>59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard <i>this</i>, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62 <i>What</i> and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, <i>they</i> are spirit, and <i>they</i> are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed</p>	<p>not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66 From that <i>time</i> many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. 70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot <i>the son</i> of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.</p>	<p>5. The fact that God saves man, that man does not save himself</p> <p>6. The conclusion: There were three responses a. The disciples who turned back b. The disciple who believed Jesus was the Christ c. The disciple who betrayed Christ</p>
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DIVISION VII

THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE, 6:1-71

H. The Reasons Some People Are Offended by Christ, the Bread of Life, 6:59-71

(6:59-71) **Introduction:** men are often offended by Christ. Four things in particular offend them.

1. The disturbing message of Jesus to the synagogue crowd (vv.59-60).
2. The idea of eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood, vv.51-56 (v.61).
3. The ascension and exaltation of Christ (v.62).
4. The teaching that the spirit quickens or gives life and that the flesh counts for nothing (vv.63-64).
5. The fact that God saves man, that man does not save himself (v.65).
6. The conclusion: there were three responses (vv.66-71).

1 (6:59-60) **Jesus Christ, Preaching:** Jesus' message was to the synagogue crowd in Capernaum. Many disciples and followers of His were present, but they had difficulty accepting what He had said. The words *hard saying* (*skleros*) mean rough and harsh. What Jesus had said was *hard* and *difficult to accept*, but His words were clearly understood. The people's problem was not in their understanding, but in their hearts. Jesus knew this, so He covered some reasons why men are offended by Him.

2 (6:61) **Blood, Repulsive—Cross, Offense:** men are offended by the claims of Christ and the idea of eating His flesh and drinking His blood (see vv.51-56). Men, including counterfeit disciples, are offended and repulsed by what is sometimes called...

- a *grotesque god*, a god who came to earth to impregnate a young girl, becoming incarnated into human flesh, being born half-man and half-god
- a *bloody religion* or a religion of cannibalism

Note two things.

a. Jesus claimed to be God *incarnated* in human flesh, but not in a grotesque sense—not half-man, half-god. In very simple terms, He was man, fully man; that is, He had the nature of man, being made of the very same substance as all men. However, there was one difference: He was not born of a human father; He was born of God. God very simply *spoke the Word* and a miracle took place, just as He spoke the Word and created the world. There is nothing grotesque about God's speech nor about His willing something to be done and doing it. God did what He always does when He wills something. He simply spoke and the event was set in motion. Very simply stated, Jesus Christ was born *by the Word of God and by human flesh*. He was fully Man, fully God. He came *from God's Word*; He became a Man *by God's Word*. Therefore, all men owe their obedience to Christ. (See note—Jn.6:62 for more discussion.)

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b. The cross or the blood of Christ *is offensive and repulsive* just as some people feel it is. It represents the awful shame of sin and the death of Jesus Christ, God's very own Son; therefore, it is bound to be repulsive. But it also represents salvation and deliverance from sin and its awful guilt. Therefore, the cross is also the most attractive symbol in all the world (see note, *Cross*—Mt.16:21-23).

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pe.2:24).

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Pe.3:18).

The words “take...eat” of Christ are not cannibalism. The words simply mean that a man is to spiritually receive Christ into his life, into his whole being. A man's deliverance from the bondage of sin and death is by *spiritually taking and eating* of Christ's body; that is, the man must spiritually receive, partake, consume, absorb, and assimilate Christ into his life. He must allow Christ to become the very nourishment, the innermost part and energy, the very consumption of his being.

“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” (Jn.1:12).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Re.3:20).

3 (6:62) **Ascension—Exaltation:** men are offended by the ascension and exaltation of Christ. (See note, *Ascension*—Mk.16:19-20.) Why? If a man accepts the ascension and exaltation of Christ, he has to surrender the control of his life to Christ. He can no longer control his own life and do the things he wishes. Note three things.

a. Christ referred to himself as the Son of Man (see note—Jn.1:51). The counterfeit disciple is unwilling to look at Jesus as the “Son of Man,” that is, as the Ideal and Perfect Man, as the Pattern for all men to copy (see *DEEPER STUDY # 3*—Mt.8:20). If a man accepted Christ as the Son of Man, he would have to pattern his life after Christ by doing his very best to live as Christ lived. The man would have to diligently seek to be like Christ (see He.11:6).

b. God exalted Jesus as Lord and Master. The counterfeit disciple is unwilling to submit himself under the control and dominion of Jesus. He is adamantly opposed to patterning his life after Jesus.

c. The words “where He was before” point to the fact that Jesus is eternal. He was preexistent: God of very God. Therefore, a man is to believe and surrender to Him as Lord.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Ph.2:9-11).

“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (1 Pe.3:22).

4 (6:63-64) **Holy Spirit—Life:** men are offended by the teaching that the Spirit quickens and the flesh profits nothing. Note three significant points.

a. The flesh cannot quicken and make a man alive. The flesh cannot profit a man. Men do not like to accept or think about the *zero value* of the flesh. They do everything they can to keep its youth, attractiveness, and stamina. They use cosmetics, clothing, and activities to appear young, attractive, and physically capable. But before too long, before they ever imagine, the flesh proves unprofitable; it ages, deteriorates, and surrenders to the process of decay. The *seed of corruption* within wins, and man dies. The flesh proves its *zero value*; it profits nothing, not eternally. Once a man dies, his flesh is gone forever, never to return, and there has never been an exception to the fact.

Such a thought, such a teaching—despite its truthfulness—offends men. They love the world and the flesh, its pleasures and feelings; therefore, they want the right to feed it. They want more and more good feelings, getting and keeping all the physical and material pleasures they can. They want the...

- worldly ego
- self-centered fame
- fleshy image
- benevolent honor
- human recognition
- stimulating pleasures
- institutional praise
- earthly wealth

b. Only the Spirit can quicken a man and make him alive, giving him abundant and eternal life. How? By receiving the Word of Christ. The words that Christ spoke were Spirit and life. When a man receives the words of Christ into his heart and life, he begins to live: he actually experiences the Spirit of God entering his life and begins to experience real life.

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn.10:10).

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Ro.8:11).

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Ep.2:1).

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)” (Ep.2:4-5).

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c. But note what Jesus said. “There are some of you who believe not.” They did not accept His Words; therefore, they did not have the Spirit of God abiding in them nor did they have life. They were only existing, not living abundantly and eternally. They did not have the knowledge and *unswerving assurance* of living forever. They doubted and wondered, ever hoping, but they were not quite sure.

- 5** (6:65) **Salvation—Draw:** men are offended by the fact that God draws and saves man, that man does not save himself. Christ said : “No man can come unto me, unless it were given him of my Father.” Christ was saying:
- ⇒ No man can come to Him unless God draws and stirs him to come.
 - ⇒ No man really belongs to God who has not come to Him.
 - ⇒ No man is saved unless they have come to Him.
 - ⇒ All men are lost unless they come to Him.

This fact disturbs people greatly, for most people feel they are good enough and have done enough good to be acceptable to God. Few people think they are lost and doomed to be separated from God; therefore, hearing the fact preached offends them. But note the critical point. The only saved person is a person who has been drawn to Christ by God and who has surrendered to God’s pull and movement within his heart.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (Jn.6:44).

“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him” (Jn.8:29).

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (2 Ti.1:9).

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied” (1 Pe.1:2).

- 6** (6:66-71) **Jesus Christ, Response to:** there were three responses to the Lord’s message.

a. There were disciples or followers who turned back. Note that “*many...went back, and walked no more with Him.*” They forsook and deserted the Lord. Why? Very simply, following Christ cost too much. It involved the cross, which meant complete denial of oneself.

- 1) Jesus was claiming to be Lord. This meant that a man had to give all he was and had to Christ.
- 2) Jesus was claiming to be the very Son of God, to have come down *out of* heaven. Some just could not receive and accept the fact.
- 3) Jesus was demanding total allegiance and complete self-denial, and following Him would just cost too much (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—Lu.9:23).

b. There was the disciple who believed that Jesus was the Lord. Note four facts.

- 1) Peter spoke for all the apostles. He was their leader and spokesman.
- 2) Peter called Jesus “Lord,” and he used the title in its fullest meaning (see vv.68-69). Jesus was recognized to be the sovereign Lord of the universe, the One to whom all men owe their allegiance.
- 3) Peter declared that Jesus’ words *were* the words of eternal life. He declared that what Jesus had just proclaimed was true (v.63). (See DEEPER STUDY # 2—Jn.1:4; DEEPER STUDY # 1—10:10; DEEPER STUDY # 1—17:2-3.)
- 4) Peter proclaimed that he and the apostles both *believed* and *knew* something: Jesus was...
 - “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (the latest manuscripts read this)
 - “the Holy One of God” (the oldest manuscripts read this)

c. There was the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Note these facts.

- 1) Judas was a “chosen” man, chosen not only to be saved, but to be a minister of Christ.
- 2) Judas was called “a devil,” a false accuser (2 Ti.3:3), an adversary, an enemy of Christ.
- 3) Judas was a betrayer, a professed follower, but a hypocrite.