

How do you react to the radical statements from Jesus?

From His own mouth, Jesus said some hard and head-turning statements. As Christians, we shouldn't brush it off like... "Oh well, He'll explain it when we get there!"

Why shouldn't we ask questions when we read and hear statements like the following:

- Matthew 5:30, "And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."
- Matthew 5:22, "Anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."
- Matthew 13:11-12 "He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.'
- Matthew 8:21, "Another of his disciples said unto him, Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury the dead."
- Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Let Him Who Has No Sword Buy One (Luke 22:36)

- Luke 22:36, "Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."
- Matthew 10:34, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword."

Hate your family –

- "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:26
- "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." Matthew 10:37

Sell What You Have (Matthew 19:21; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:22)

- **Matthew 19:21**, Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
- Mark 10:21, "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/the-hard-sayings-of-jesus/#ixzz8dWLxh5gY>

John 6.. "Eat my flesh and drink my blood..." Radical Jesus made this statement in a Synagogue in Capernaum.

Reacting to the Radical Statements of Jesus.

Many disciples turn away.

John 6:60-66, Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” 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. 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 this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

This is a hard saying: This refers to that which is **hard to accept** (*mysterious = used in several passages of Scripture*)...especially Paul's writings. 26 verses in the Bible have the word "mystery" in them.

The Biblical Use of Mystery:

1. Something Revealed That Was Previously Hidden

The Bible uses the term, “mystery” to refer to a sacred secret. It is something that had been hidden in the past but was eventually revealed. The secret that was hidden during the Old Testament period is revealed in the New Testament.

2. A Mystery Can Be Something about God That Humans Cannot Completely Comprehend.

Truths about God that humans cannot completely understand or comprehend.

3. Mystery May Refer to Something about God That Cannot Logically Be Understood

An example of this type of mystery would be the Trinity; God is both three and one at the same time.

Another, “We shall all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.” This type of mystery is something that we cannot logically understand. Thus, we accept it by faith because of the nature of God. God is a God of truth; He cannot lie. Remember... “Faith is always above see level.”

No doubt, these disciples found Jesus' words somewhat mysterious, but it was the parts they *did* understand that were really disturbing.

Does this offend you (Jesus asked)?

- *Jesus understood the offense many of His listeners took at His teaching, yet He didn't change the teaching or feel it was His fault.*
- *Jesus didn't preach just to please His audience. If that was His concern, He would have instantly taken back what was just said, seeing His audience was offended.*

- Jesus didn't take it back. He challenged and confronted them even more.

What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?

- ✓ **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.

Jesus goes to the heart of the matter...gives a sampling of what to look for in the future.

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

- **This could well be the real reason for this discourse from Jesus.**
- **Jesus, the God-man, continually called them and us to put heart and focus on spiritual matters, not material things.**

"The Spirit imparts life to the believer; it is not transmitted by the process of physical eating." (Tenney)

Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe:

- ✓ **Being God, He had the divine prerogative to know the heart of man.**
- ✓ **It could be, however, that Jesus knew this simply as a Man submitted to the Father and gifted by the Holy Spirit.**
- ✓ **He was never deceived by a false faith, nor by the one who would betray Him.**

Conclusion of Jesus' discourse to the crowd in the synagogue at Capernaum:

The spiritual reason why many walked away (Heart of the Matter).

- **Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father:** (The Father draws and the Holy Spirit convicts).
 - ✓ Jesus rebuked and chastised them even more for their own material and earthly motivations for following Him.
 - ✓ If they did not seek Him by the Spirit in lieu of pursuing Him for food and for the possibility of being part of an earthly kingdom, then they had not come to Him at all.

They were willing to follow Him for prestige and material things...BUT NOT FOR BEING A PART OF A FUTURE KINGDOM FOLLOWING THEIR DEATH.

JESUS WAS LOOKING FOR THOSE WILLING TO ENTER INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION OF SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES LEADING TO EVERLASTING LIFE.

"You can't come with me until you are willing to completely surrender your thoughts and actions to my Father's will."

★ Some of these thoughts are from *David Guzik -2018*

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

- *Perhaps some were discouraged and confused by the deliberate controversy (John 6:52) introduced by the religious leaders visiting from Jerusalem (Matthew 15:1).*
- *When so many left, it looked like the enemies of Jesus won.*
 - ✓ “It is the crisis of the first great apostasy in His Ministry.
- ***Yet the battle was not yet over.***
 - ✓ Many who left would come back, but the loss of those who followed Jesus for material or impure motives was painful.
- It’s important to do as Jesus did, and to *not* encourage others to follow Jesus for material and temporal motives, promoting Jesus simply as something to add to make a better life.
- Today...We see the same thing happening. People come to church for various reasons that are not spiritual at all. Name some of the wrong reasons for people coming to Jesus!

People coming to Jesus for the wrong reasons may be part of the crowd who were never granted to him by the Father (Jesus said, “My Father.”)

“Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” Jesus said it...I didn’t! But, I believe it!

**THIS IS A HARD SAYING! WHAT IS JESUS SAYING?
DOES THIS SAYING PROVE THE PREDESTINATION THEORY?**

From the “Think Tank” (Christian Non-Denomination Group).

The Bible does not put human will at odds with divine sovereignty, as if only one of these could be real. It simply (if mysteriously) upholds both concepts as valid. Man has a genuine will and is responsible. And God is sovereign over all things, even over the will of man. Consider John 6:37, where Jesus said, “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” On the one hand you have the divine sovereignty of God on full display.

Everyone – to a person – who comes to Jesus has been given to Jesus by the Father. That unmistakably points to God’s sovereign will in predestination. And yet...

All that the Father gives Jesus will come to Him. They come to Jesus. They are not dragged to Jesus. Their will is not trampled. They come to Jesus, and that is an act of man’s will.