



Lesson #25, Some Come...Some Go! Some Listen...Some Resist!

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John 6:65-66, "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."

- **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 (prestige and material things/opportunities; to be recognized and approved by men), then they had not come to Him at all.

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

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

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. There is a spiritual reason why many walked away (This is the Heart of the Matter).

- *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.
- **No pain...no gain! No repentance...no change! No repentance...no spiritual grieving! No repentance...false freedom!**
John the Baptist preached repentance. Jesus preached repentance. Our preachers and teachers MUST preach and teach REPENTANCE (A TURNING FROM SINS THAT SO EASILY BESET US). Sin is sin. Sins are products of our sin nature.
- **Today...We see the same thing happening in our churches.** 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.

The true disciples stand firm in their desire to follow Jesus!

John 6:67-71, 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." 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.

Do you also want to go away?

- **What a question to ask the bunch of common followers who observed Jesus' work and signs!** Here we have hundreds of “would-be” followers of Jesus leaving Him and shaking their heads and afraid of the possibility of suffering the consequences from the Jewish Rabbis and possibly the Roman killing squad.
- **Jesus asked the twelve if they would also go.**
Note: Jesus always searches the motives of *all* that follow Him. Of course, Jesus knew the answer from the twelve before it was given. He also knows your answer to the all-important question... ARE YOU WILLING TO WALK WITH JESUS ACROSS THE FINISH LINE?

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life:

Speaking for the twelve, Simon Peter gave a wonderful statement of faith (even though Peter was probably one of the least educated, he was a leader and a voice of simple faith. “Simple faith” meaning “A faith that did not require a lot of proof for believing.” He already experienced Jesus’ works and signs.

- Peter recognized Jesus as **Lord**.
- He recognized Jesus as the preferred alternative, despite the difficulties (He already declared the fact that Jesus was and is the Messiah, the Son of God).
- He recognized the value of spiritual things over the material and earthly desires.
- He heard and saw that Jesus had what the “earthlings” desired and longed for (Someone who had **the words of eternal life**).

Every person longs for someone in authority to declare that there is life after death.

John 6:70-71, 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.

- **Did I not choose you:** Jesus did in fact, choose the twelve disciples. Yet one among whom **He chose was LIKE a devil** – and would betray Him.
Note: We can choose someone to be on our “Family Reunion Softball Team”...but, the one chosen is not forced or “dragged” onto the field **making** them to be actively on our team. The captain of the team can choose; but the one chosen has the prerogative to say “Yes” or “No.” So it is with Christianity!
- “There are Judases among the apparent followers of the Lord in our day. They are in our pews, even in our pulpits, and they are sometimes undetected. They betray the Lord and the gospel by both their words and their actions.” (Boice)

“Be careful of the words you say. Keep them soft and sweet. For you never know from day to day which ones you will have to eat.”

There is a choosing on both sides of the coin. God chooses and draws the chosen ones...however, the recipients of God's love (all mankind) must listen to the Spirit's calling and either accept or reject God's calling.

*2 Peter 3:9, The Lord is **not** slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but **that** all **should** come to repentance.*

Why would Judas betray Jesus? Answer(s):

1. *He was searching for a different type Messiah (a*
2. *He was denying the power thereof.*

2 Timothy 3:5, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." He had seen the miracles, the signs...the amazing power of God from the work of Jesus.

3. *Money was on his mind.*

4. *1 Timothy 6:10, **For the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some coveted after, **they** have erred from **the** faith, and pierced **themselves** through with many sorrows.*

"Watch Out for Gold, Glory, and Girls!"

That was the constant warning from an old evangelist to his "preacher boys" preparing for the ministry many years ago. Obviously, that warning is just as relevant today as it was then. *The activities of certain prominent Christians* have been exposed in the recent hacking of scandalous websites, the revealing of heinous sexual encounters and lascivious habits amongst the clergy. These revelations have been heart sickening to family, friends, and congregations across the country. Behind that sickness is the pall (dark shadow) settling over churches that do not prepare their people to resist sin's temptations—and worse than that are the seminaries and Christian colleges that appear to be indifferent to the problem! May God's Holy Spirit strike at the heart of God's leaders. "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God."

(1 Peter 4:17, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

GOOD NEWS: *2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

This verse highlights the need for God's people to repent of their sins in order to experience revival and renewal. True revival starts with recognizing where we have gone astray, confessing our sins, and turning back to God. LET IT BEGIN IN ME!