

The Jesus Way – What Would It Take? John 6

Imagine living in Jesus' day but having not yet met him...

What would it take for him to convince you to follow Him?

- Seeing him feed thousands with a few loaves & a couple fish?
- Seeing him heal the lame, give sight to the blind, raise the dead?
- What if he told you everything you have ever done (Samaritan woman)?
- Would a simple invitation be enough... or would it take something more?

If you are a follower of Jesus today, what did it take for you to say "Yes?"
Do you know? Was it something he said... did... didn't do... hope he will do?

Many have had an encounter with Jesus, but few truly follow him... Why?
The answer lies at the heart of why a person follows Jesus in the first place!

Those who seek only signs & wonders... won't follow after the physical healings & spectacle are done! Those who want only earthly bread won't follow after they are fed, or until they are hungry again!

John 6:26-30 – Did you require something from Jesus before saying "Yes?"
Do you require something of him now before taking another step?

I have met far too many people who have walked through the doors of the church, & who say they are interested in the things of God... in Jesus... but then walk away when they get, or don't get, what they were really looking for!

But Jesus didn't come to just meet our "felt" needs. He came to bring life, eternal life, to all who would receive Him, believe in His name, & follow Him.

John 6:33-40 But do we really want the life that He came to bring... or do we really just want a life that satisfies our own earthly & temporary desires?

John 6:41-44 The Jews grumbled, and ultimately rejected Jesus! And Jesus tells us the reason why, **"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."** – Vs. 44

If you are a follower of Jesus today, it is because God has sought you out and drawn you to Him! If you aren't a follower, then that should be your prayer...

If you are looking for bread, make sure it is the right bread... If you are looking for healing, consider your greatest area of need... If you are looking for signs & wonders, look to the sign/door/way to the greatest of wonders...

What does it take to follow Jesus? A miracle of the heart...

What would it take to continue following Him? An ongoing miracle of God!

Why? Because in our flesh, it is too easy for us to just turn & walk away!
One unanswered prayer... one unfortunate event... one hard saying from Jesus and we are gone!

"Pastor Dan that can't be true..." Look at old pictures... directories... update church membership numbers... How many of those we use to call family, in the church, are now completely disconnected with the church & with Christ?

What happened(s) that leads people to walk away & not return? **John 6:60-67**
"After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him."

The Jesus Way is not easy! Jesus said hard things... & people walked away!
What would it take for you/me to walk away from Jesus & His Church today?

Here are 10 hard things that Jesus said, in 1 sermon... What do they stir in us? If He was here right now & spoke these words to us, what would we do?

- 1) **"Blessed are you when others revile you & persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."** (Matthew 5:11)
- 2) **"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."** Matthew 5:20)
- 3) **"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that the whole body be thrown into hell."** (Matthew 5:29)
- 4) **"Everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."** (Matthew 5:32)
- 5) **"Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."** (Matthew 5:39)
- 6) **"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."** (Matthew 5:44)
- 7) **"If you do not forgive others sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."** (6:15)
- 8) **"You cannot serve both God and money... You will love the one and despise the other."** (Matthew 6:24)
- 9) **"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."** (Matthew 7:5)
- 10) **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom."** (Matt 7:21)

I don't know about you, but this is a tall order, & it pushes against all my earthly desires! For many, it only takes one of these statements from Jesus to make them walk away... What about us? What would it take for us to walk away?

The Jesus Way is to do the will of the Father (**John 6:38-40**)... The Father's will is to both draw people to the Son, & conform them more and more to His image!

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