

Doubting Because It is Difficult

In this Series...

1. We will be reminded that many people believe in the person of Jesus Christ, yet they reject His teaching.
“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.” - John 6:63
2. We will see that there are many reasons why people doubt, and hopefully understand our doubts better.

The Scripture

“Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, ‘How can this man give us His flesh to eat?’”
⁵³Jesus said to them, *“I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*
⁵⁹He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.
⁶⁰On hearing it, many of His disciples said, *“This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”*
⁶¹Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, *“Does this offend you? ⁶²What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before! ⁶³The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴Yet there are some of you who do not believe.”*
For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵He went on to say, ‘This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.’”
⁶⁶From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.
⁶⁷*“You do not want to leave too, do you?”* Jesus asked the Twelve.
⁶⁸Simon Peter answered Him, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”*
⁷⁰Then Jesus replied, *“Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” ⁷¹(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray Him.)”* - John 6:52-71

Jesus Offers His Flesh and Blood

The Jews began to argue because of Jesus’ statement that the Bread of Life was His flesh. (From grumbling to arguing!)

So Jesus repeats the statement six more times beginning with *“Amen, Amen,”* and adding the concept of drinking His blood.

The problem once again: The people hear His words literally instead of figuratively. (*born again, living water, bread of life*)

— *This passage is important to the Roman Catholic Church and is foundational in their doctrine of transubstantiation.*

— *The early church could not possibly have understood this teaching (literal Body and Blood) in the same way. Why?*

— *Jesus then declared that He wasn’t speaking literally.*

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The Benefits of Receiving Jesus Into You

1. It gives life. (53, 57)
2. It gives eternal life and bodily resurrection. (54, 58)
3. It is the world’s only real food. (55)
4. It provides fellowship with Christ. (56)
5. It gives purpose to life. (57)

The Responses

1. Many of the disciples turned back and no longer followed Jesus even though He spoke clearly concerning their two doubts.
“From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.” - John 6:66
 - a) *“Came down from heaven.”* —
 - b) *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man...”* —
2. The twelve apostles committed themselves to following Jesus (although they didn’t understand this current teaching.)
“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered Him, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”* - John 6:67-69
3. One of the disciples pretended to be one of His followers and continued with Him.
“Then Jesus replied, ‘Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!’” - John 6:70

The Application — Understanding the Analogy

1. You must be hungry for the food to eat it.
2. You must actually eat the food.
3. You must trust that the food is safe to eat.
4. You must understand that the food becomes part of you.
5. You must eat only for yourself. No one else can eat for another.

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