

Offensive Words of Life

John 6:60-71 ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

❖ Introduction

- **Very Sobering Verses... Very Scary Actually...**
 - Within these verses we have the Hope of Eternal Life
 - And We have the Reality of Eternal Damnation
- **The backdrop of Chapter 6**
 - 1) Misunderstood Miracle
 - 2) The Work of God is to Believe on Jesus
 - 3) No Ordinary Baker 1
 - 4) No Ordinary Baker 2
 - 5) Feeding on Jesus to Escape Death and Gain Eternal Life
- **One thing we see clearly:**
 - Jesus has went out of His way to show them who he is
 - And to clearly define to them what He offers them
 - And how they can receive it.
- **Notice:**
 - These final verses of Chapter 6 occur in the Synagogue
 - And notice that the opposition to Jesus...
 - Is not the Jewish leaders...
 - It is His disciples...
 - Jesus disciples... those who have been following Him and learning from Him
 - And naming Jesus as their Master and Teacher...
 - These Disciples are the ones that begin to grumble

❖ Many Thought Jesus' Words Were Hard

- ⁶⁰When many of his **disciples** heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"
- **These People Had been with Jesus...**
 - They liked Jesus... they were checking Jesus out...
 - They were learning from Jesus...
- **Jesus had proven Himself by His Works**
 - Jesus had turned the water into wine...
 - Healed the official's Son from a distance
 - Healed the lame man on the Sabbath day
 - Had just fed close to 25000 people from almost nothing...

- **Jesus had proven Himself by His Words.**
 - Jesus had been spending much of His time teaching His disciples...
 - He had been telling them who He was
 - He had been telling them how they could gain eternal life...
- **This is a hard Saying:**
 - They were not meaning that they did not understand it...
 - Although I assume there was some kind of disconnect for them...
 - The word means that it was offensive and objectionable...
 - They did not like what He was saying...
- **False Disciples:**
 - They have no problem with the person of Jesus...
 - They have no problem with the great things He did...
 - They just can not agree with His Words
- **Application:**
 - Very Serious... this should cause some serious evaluation:
 - How often in the church do we know people that say they love Jesus and God...
 - That Jesus is very important to them...
 - But their lifestyles are completely different.
 - And you share with them that Jesus said this, or Jesus said that...
 - And if it contradicts how they want to live...
 - They will say something like... I don't think that is what He meant by that...
 - Or, if you come to them with the scripture... they get offended and think you are judgmental
 - And sometimes a person might be...
 - It is important that we are not...
 - But that does not even matter really...
 - **The Truth matters...**
 - And very often people are offended by the truth of what Jesus said...
 - So... lets take a test this morning and see how well you respond to Jesus...
- **TEST:**
 - 1) Luke 14:26 (ESV) ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
 - 2) Luke 14:27 (ESV) ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
 - 3) Luke 14:33 (ESV) ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
 - 4) Matthew 5:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, '*Raca!*' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, '*You fool!*' shall be in danger of hell fire.
 - John Summarizes this:
 - ◆ 1 John 3:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
 - 5) Matthew 5:27-30 (ESV) ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, '*You shall not commit adultery.*' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ 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 your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

- Matthew 5:31-32³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
 - I come from a family full of divorces...
 - And I understand that there more than half of our population has been divorced...
 - So, I understand this is a very sensitive issue...
 - But I do not want to run from some of the hard things Jesus said....
 - And the question today is not, have we done any of these things...
 - ◆ Because We are ALL guilty of one of these... equally... Even if it is not as noticeable...
 - The Question is... Are you offended by Jesus Words...
- 6) Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV)³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.
- 7) Matthew 5:43-45 (ESV)⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- 8) Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

➤ **How did your heart respond to these Scriptures...**

- This is just a few...
- The question here is not... Am I perfect...
- The question is... Do I agree with what Jesus is saying... Do I cling to His words even in my weakness
- Do I find these hard things He is saying to be Life to me...
- Or do I find them offensive...

➤ **There is forgiveness offered in the cross...**

- But we must be in agreement with His Word...
- The question is not... Have I ever been guilty of these things...
- Because that is what makes Jesus so unique...
- He offers grace to cover your weakness...
- This is All the MORE Reason You should cling to Him...
- Because His standards are so high... and His words are so Holy...

➤ **This is WHY He says what He says**

- About Eating His flesh and drinking His blood...
- And that the bread He offers the World is His flesh...
- He knows we are full of sin...
- And His life and death and resurrection are what we need for our Saving

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

❖ Jesus' Response

- But Jesus, knowing in himself that his **disciples** were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?"

➤ Jesus Notices their taking offense....

- So He asks.... What if you see me Ascending to where I was before
- He knew they were grumbling about:
 - Him saying He had come down from heaven
 - Him saying that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood...
 - And in a minute... saying that the Father is the one who draws them...
- So, I think He simply is saying... You do not believe me now after my Works and Words
 - What if you were to see me go back where I came from with your own eyes...
 - Would you believe it then?
- Sadly... many of them never got the chance to see that, because they
 - Because they left and no longer followed Him

❖ Jesus Affirms the Sovereign Power of God

➤ This is where we need to be....

- In light of what Jesus is saying... Having a proper view of God is ESSENTIAL...

➤ Sovereign means in total control over all things...

- This means that everything falls under the control of God...
- Think back to the verse in Isaiah...
 - Isaiah 46:9-10 ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

➤ There are only two clear options in regards to God

- 1) He is a Powerful God that made us, but only has as much control over us as we let Him
 - And sin and satan's rebellion were out of His control...
- 2) He is a Powerful God that is in complete and total control
 - And even sin and satan's rebellion are part of His plan

➤ The Bible is clear that He is in total control...

- I believe the idea that God can be defeated is why the fallen Angel Lucifer is still trying
- I think He is so messed up in His thinking that He believe there is a way to defeat God...
- He is planning... He is strategizing...
- He is not just fighting knowing He will lose... He wants to win... He wants to defeat God..

➤ Jesus explains God's sovereignty in regards to our salvation this in three ways...

❖ 1) It is the Spirit who gives life

- ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
- The Spirit... the Holy Spirit gives Life...
- Flesh is not help at all
- Jesus words are Spirit and Life..
 - Spirit is speaking
 - Life comes from me
- It is not their flesh... that saves them...
 - Their works and their striving can not give them life...

- It must be given to them...
- And the only way to get it is to believe...
- And they don't...

➤ **Interjection #1 - Some Still Do Not Believe**

- ⁶⁴ **But there are some of you who do not believe.** (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)
- **The one thing they needed for life eternal... they did not do...**
 - And Jesus already knew it...
 - You see His sovereign power here in His knowledge of who did not believe...
- **But did Jesus ever get scared that unbelievers were following Him?**
 - Was he even worried about the Betrayer Judas being in His midst...
 - No... Jesus is in so much control that He can keep Satan's Servant Judas right by Him...
 - And use Him for His own plan

❖ **2) Father Must Draw You**

- ⁶⁵ **And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."**

➤ **Here we see Jesus ratcheting up His Sovereign God teaching**

- He had said before that it is the Spirit that gives Life... and His words were Spirit and Life.
 - Meaning they were how one gets life and they were the life a person needs...

➤ **When He said... But there are some of you who do not believe**

- **He then immediately says... that is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father...**
- **WOW.... Do you hear what He is saying?**
 - He is saying... this may look like defeat for me... That after all this I have done... many are still not believing...
 - It may look like I am unable to convince them...
 - But that is not the case...
- They do not believe because my Father has not LET THEM...
 - And they are TOTALLY responsible for it...

➤ **Whoa!....**

- That is tough to hear... Very tough to Hear...
- I do not believe that God is in this much control because it is comfortable...
- I believe it because He says it... I believe it because it is clear...
- And I embrace it because of Who He is...
 - He is Holy
 - He is Wise...
 - He loves enough to give up His own Life...
 - I think He is the only one worthy enough to make these decisions...

➤ **This Opens a whole can of Questions doesn't it?**

- Does this mean we do not make our own decisions?
- Does God Make people just to send them to hell?
- Does this mean that not everyone is offered a chance at salvation?
- I thought we had free will!
- And the list goes on and on...

➤ **We do not know it all... and be wary of those who put God in a box...**

- Because He doesn't fit...
- We know that Man is responsible for rejecting Jesus...

- We know that man is responsible for believing... and that they must choose Jesus
- We know that God is responsible for our coming to know Him
- We know that God's choosing us comes before our choosing Him...
- We know that God will reward us for believing Him...
- When we look in the Bible as to the reason for people going to hell
 - We never see it written... Because God made them for Hell...
 - We see they are there because of their sin... and rejection of a free offer of salvation
- **We know the Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish**
 - 2 Peter 3:9 ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- **Jesus Wept over Jerusalem and their sin and rejection**
 - Matthew 23:37 ³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"

➤ **Mystery in understanding God**

- That is why He is God and we are not... He is beyond our understanding...
- After Paul's writing on Election in Romans he ends by saying
 - Romans 11:33-34 ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

➤ **So... What will Your Response be...**

- Do you embrace this?
 - Do you say... I may not fully understand God... but I sure love Him... I embrace His mysteries
 - I thank Him for what He has done
- Or do you follow this crowd.... Look at their response

➤ **Interjection #2 – Many Disciples Turned Back**

- ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

➤ **Interjection #3 – Do You Want to Go Away as Well?**

- ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

➤ **Interjection #4 – Peter's Confession**

- ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

❖ **3) Did I not Choose You?**

- ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

➤ **Peter's Confession is Wonderful...**

- But it seems to me that Jesus is correcting Him and continuing to say God is in control... not man

➤ **Did I not choose you, the twelve?**

- Remember Peter... You have believed and You have come to know... Because I chose you...

➤ **To Illustrate it even further...**

- He says... I have even let a betrayer, a devil into the inner circle...
 - I want to show you that the devil has no power over me...
 - I will use Satan like a puppet for my own purpose...
 - It may seem like He is winning... He has an insider...
 - But I am in control...
- And Jesus knows, He will do what He is going to do...
 - And that it will be the Catalyst for His Life Giving Death on the Cross.

Summary

❖ 1) God Isn't Always What We Want Him To Be

❖ 2) You are Currently in One of these Two Groups

- #1 Those That Turn Away from following Jesus
- #2 Those who believe and know who Jesus is

❖ 3) Your Hope Today

- It is the Spirit who gives Life
- Peter's Confession
 - ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
 - Have You Believed?
 - Have You come to Know...?
- This Stuff was probably Hard for the disciples to hear as well... But it did not matter to them
 - They knew Jesus, and they knew they had no where else to go!

❖ Believers:

- In light of Jesus words about God being in control of our salvation..
- Does this cause you to stop for a minute and thank the Father for choosing you
- Does this humble You?
 - It should... there should be no boasting...
- Doesn't this give you great Hope that God can overwhelm those whom you pray for with His Salvation?

❖ Unbelievers/Doubters:

- Shouldn't you draw near to God...
- Shouldn't you beg Him for mercy... you will find He is there waiting for your repentance...
- You will find He is there to give you salvation...