

Home Group Questions

The week of 10/20/2019

John 6:60-71

QUESTIONS BY JESUS!

DO YOU WANT TO GO AWAY AS WELL?

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on "Questions by Jesus". This question comes when a number of followers of Jesus leave him because of the "hard" teaching He gives. The question He asks his disciples is...basically "do you want to leave too?".

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read John 6:60-71. Jesus senses the struggle the disciples have with His teaching and hints, in essence, would you struggle with what I had to say if you saw the glory I possessed before I came to earth?" (v. 62). Why do you think Jesus addresses their struggle in this way? What helps you in believing to and holding fast to the difficult doctrines of our faith that some mock or put down? If a new Christian came to you and asked "how can I have a stronger conviction in my heart and mind when it comes to what I believe about Jesus?" what would you say?

Verse 65 - Jesus teaches "no one can come to me unless it has been granted him by the Father". What does that verse teach you about our salvation...how it was initiated, how it came about, etc? Sometimes the doctrine of "election"....that God chose us to be saved before the foundation of the world, not because of anything good in us, but simply because of His sovereign choice....is a doctrine that bothers some people, and probably has bothered all of us at some point or another. Pastor Mel shared that since we can never fully understand God, then we can never fully understand how God operates when it comes to our being chosen. How do you understand, as best you can, the doctrine of election and how it corresponds to human responsibility (Romans 1 says

"they are without excuse" if they reject God). Knowing this doctrine can be difficult to understand, what is the bottom line conviction you have in holding to this doctrine even though you don't fully understand...what attribute(s) of God helps you to be comfortable with the things you don't quite fully understand?

2. Jesus asks "Do you want to go away as well?" in verse 67. Jesus is testing their conviction regarding their beliefs. Peter answers Jesus. What do you like (or not like) about Peter's response. Distinguish between what Peter states when he says "we have believed"....and "have come to know". Why does Peter say it this way ...something that some could perceive as saying the same thing twice? Is it the same thing...what was Peter driving home in his response?

3. Peter cries out "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". In essence Peter says...."there is no other source of truth outside of you Jesus and even if I don't understand, I'm not leaving you!" **Read Psalm 73:16-28.** The Psalmist here expresses a similar conviction in the midst of his struggle. Verse 25 he writes, "Whom have I in heaven but you?". This is a wonderful affirmation for today's believer as well...."God even if I don't understand all your workings, I trust You and I will still follow you even in the midst of my struggles because there is no other God but You". Talk about holding that conviction. How might the world respond to a believer who holds that conviction?

5. Read 1 John 2:19; Philippians 1:6. Pastor Mel taught that if someone does leave the faith, that only proves they were never really "of the faith"...they never were truly a believer. The Bible teaches that God will complete the work that He began in you and if you are truly saved, you will persevere in your faith. Talk about where you are at in regards to the security of your salvation.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray to have the faith & conviction to follow Jesus in every struggle.