

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

November 18, 2020

### John 6: 64 - 71

**64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. 70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.**

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### Verse 64

*“But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.”*

\*There is a mystery here about how Jesus knew who believed and who did not. But we must focus on the fact that Jesus knows. He knows you and He knows your heart.

\*Are the things you do or think for Jesus or for self?

\*Other questions to ponder:

Do you believe that we have betrayers among us?

Do you believe you are a betrayer?

How would you react to pressure to cave in and betray Jesus?

What if someone threatened to harm (or worse) your family?

\*But Jesus knows! He knows the heart. Yet He still ministers to those people!

\*We cannot tell others' hearts but we cannot stop praying for them or witnessing to them.

\*We must follow Jesus' example - we cannot stop trying to connect with them somehow. We don't know what's going on behind the scenes, what God is doing in their lives.

Pastor Tom mentioned the infant baptism that occurred on Sunday: God will keep His vow to the family; we do know this. But will the family keep its vow, we do not know. We can only pray for them and support them. Jesus knows!

### **Verse 65**

*“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.”*

\*The theme of this verse has been repeated since about verse 44 in this chapter of John. This is the 'hard teaching' once again.

### **Verse 66**

*“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”*

\*The time referred to here is the time that they heard the 'hard teaching'

\*Also take note of the word *many*. These were people who were following Jesus (aka The Church) until they heard the 'hard teaching' and decided to go back to where they had come from; to quit.

\*Just because you follow Jesus does not mean you believe in Him. Many people say they are Christians but when things (In church or in their homes or jobs...) get hard, they go back to their former ways of life. People get all excited about church when they first join. But circumstances begin to pull them away.

\*Think about the distractor we are facing right now: A pandemic! This has caused the virtual format to become a crutch, a reason not to attend in person. There is a reason we were commanded to worship together. BUT with technology we can be together, not in the same building but at the same time. We should make our best effort to be together at the same time to experience worship as close to what God commanded as possible.

\*It may seem or appear to be easy to fall away or go back to old life but it has consequences that are not easy to deal with.

## **Verse 67**

*“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?”*

\*Jesus now addresses the 12 disciples, the ones he hand picked. These men were watching as others were leaving in droves. (remember: many)

\*Will we also go away? If things get difficult or crazy, will we be questioned by Jesus? Is our faith shallow or deeply rooted? Are we faithful only when good stuff is going on? Is our faith strong enough to get us through difficult times or will we leave, go back to former life?

\*Jesus knows! He wants us to be hot or cold. Either way, we must be honest with Him.

\*Are the current circumstances we're going through discouraging us? When we talk about hard stuff in Bible Study, will we turn away?

## **Verse 68 and 69**

*“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

\*Peter is speaking for all the disciples now. He has become the God-appointed leader of this group now. (Remember: To whom much is given, much is required)

\*Where would we go if we went away from Jesus?

Pastor Tom referred to a relative who told Sherri shortly after Tom got saved that she shouldn't worry because he would get over it soon!

\*Where could you go after you've experienced JESUS and have any kind of contentment?

\*If Jesus turned you around and made you a new person, why would you ever go back to the person He saved you from?

\*Back to the miserable, with an insecure future, out of fellowship with God? With no peace in your life and getting more miserable.

\*Who or what could be a substitute for Jesus?

\*Even in our worst times (like having a spouse with health issues or being the pastor of a church during a pandemic) there is an unexplainable peace knowing that Jesus is taking care of us. If we are faithful, God is capable of

working things out. We may not see it clearly right away, but we grow our faith in times like these.

## **Verse 70 and 71**

*“Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.”*

\*Peter had responded for the disciples pledging their belief in who Jesus was.

\*Jesus reveals to them that He had chosen them but among them was a devil.

\*Again this is one of the mysteries in the Bible. God’s ways are not our ways to understand.

\* Jesus knew who would believe and who would betray him.

\*It doesn’t make sense to our human minds why He would choose someone who would betray Him. Some answer this with predestination, so the prophecies would come true. Maybe it goes deeper than this:

After Judas sold out to the Pharisees, he tried to retract the deal. He tried to give the money back to them. But they wouldn’t take it. So Judas hung himself. But what if he had humbled himself and asked Jesus for forgiveness? This could have resulted in a way different ending to Judas’ story.

\* There are things we (as the church) do not understand: Why do some people seem to just float through life easily but others are in difficult situations, one after another. Never-the-less, the last we should be to Jesus is a Judas and betray Him.

Pastor Tom referred to Dr. David Jeremiah’s comments about his cancer: He said at first he was only thinking about the cancer and did not care for the platitudes of people (Just have faith, or you have to have enough faith).

Instead of offering these trite words we should be ‘standing in the gap’ for these needs while the afflicted ones deal with their physical issues.

Pastor Tom opened the phone lines for discussion and comments, concluding with this: Jesus never really, completely quits on us. Good to know!

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God is good, all the time!

All the time, God is good!

Ride out the storm!

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