“It is the Spirit Who Gives Life”

Intro: The 6th chapter of John has taken us from crowds that followed for the wrong reason, simply desiring another free lunch, to men of religion who rejected His teaching refusing to believe He was sent, until our text this Lord’s Day reports that many of His own disciples Him, going their own way.

I. of Jesus self-proclaimed disciples were at His teaching.

A. They said of Jesus, "This is a statement; who can listen to it?"

1. F.F. Bruce writes, “This was not simply because they thought the metaphor outrageous but because the whole tenor of argument implied a to be greater than Moses - to be, in fact, uniquely associated with God. His language was hard to take not merely because it was difficult to grasp but because they found it.

B. Knowing they at His teaching, Jesus asked, "Does this cause you to ?"

1. That they might ponder the blinding stubbornness of their Jesus also asked "What then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending where He was before?” As it has been, Jesus was showing them their lostness; their to believe; the irrationality of their own scandalous unbelief.

C. In expressing the only way their unbelief could be overcome Jesus said, "It is the who..." If their unbelief was going to be conquered, it would be by a divine work of the Spirit. Thus, He pointed them to their great to look to alone for that which only He can give.

1. God the Holy Spirit must give men life for the profits. Beloved, as it has been all the way through this exchange in Capernaum, Christ was pointing men away from self-reliance, and away from trust in human knowledge, and away from human effort to!
D. Christ Jesus spoke ______________ ____ _______________ and life! In telling them this, He was saying that they must hear His word as spiritual words and that in believing His word they would have _________________.

1. Jesus identified that ______________ did not receive His words of spirit and life because they __________ not believe. Though they followed, they did ___ believe. Though they called themselves disciples, they did not __________. So, they grumbled and stumbled at His teaching being unable to hear His words of spirit and life.
   a. ______________ knew who did not believe from the beginning, and even who would betray Him. He is the ___________ and Omniscient One of God!

2. Because Jesus knew some of His disciples did not believe, He kept _______________ to them by telling them that they were lost and by pointing them to the Sovereign _______________ who alone saves.

E. From that time forward, as a result of the Lord’s teaching many of His _______________ (those disciples who were not of Him) _________________, and were not walking with Him anymore.

Closing: The Apostle Paul exhorted us saying, “____________ yourself to see if you are in the ______________; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?” (2 Cor 13:5)

We might ask ourselves, _______ do I follow him? Do I seek Him for what earthly treasure I might gain, or because He is the Son of God? ______ ___ believe the Word of God in its entirety, even that which is difficult to understand? Am I compelled to follow Him no matter the cost? Will I leave all to Him? Is Christ in me?

If we see that we fail the test, then we must forsake our way and cry out to God for He alone saves. And we know this: “if we will ______________ our sins, He is faithful and righteous to ______________ us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jo. 1:9)

We have before the Word of God, these are words of spirit and life. What will it take for you to believe? Prov 3:5-6, “_____________ in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And _____ __________ make your paths straight.”

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