

*Thou Hast The Words of
Eternal Life*

John 6:66-69

John 6:66-69

- After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? ***You have the words of eternal life***, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:66-69 ESV)

Introduction – John 6

- Feeding of 5,000. (1-14)
- The crowd follows Jesus for free food. (25-26)
- Jesus is not just seeking a crowd, but believers. (27-29)
- Jesus begins to set forth some hard sayings which have a “sifting” effect. (35-59)
- Read John 6:47-56.
 - The crowd makes the same error that others had, taking figurative language literally. (cf. Jn. 3, 4, Matt. 16:6, etc.)
 - Jesus is not talking about his literal flesh and blood, but his teaching. (cf. vv. 40, 47, 51, 54, 63)

What Is Jesus Talking About?

- Jn. 6:40 → And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
- John 6:47 → Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
- John 6:51 → I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.
- John 6:54 → Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- John 6:63 → It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The Response of Peter

- “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (ESV – v. 68)
 - Not you are one of several, many, who has words...
 - Jesus is the only one who has the words of eternal life.
 - Jn. 14:6 → Jesus is not a way, but the way.
 - Acts 4:12 → No other means of salvation.

The Words of Eternal Life

- Not a magic formula of words as some thought in Acts 19:11-13.
- But the power is in the message (the gospel) conveyed by words.
 - Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1-4 → God speaks to us today by his Son.
 - Rom. 1:16 → The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
 - I Cor. 1:18 → The preaching of the cross is the power of God. (cf. vv. 22-23)

The Words of Eternal Life

- The power is in the message (the gospel) conveyed by words.
 - Cornelius had to hear powerful words to be saved. (Acts 10:6, 11:13-14; 10:36-43)
 - The fundamental facts of the gospel – powerful words. (I Cor. 15:1-6)
 - God chose the gospel as the message to convey his salvation; appealing to the heart (Acts 2:37), mind (Acts 17:2), and will (Acts 10:48).

How Do We Hear The Words of Life?

- Matt. 13:18 → Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.
- Matt. 13:9 → Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.
- Lk. 19:47-48 → And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words. (Luke 19:47-48 ESV)
- Lk. 8:18 → “Take heed therefore how ye hear...”
- Matt. 7:24 → 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
- ***What kind of listeners are we?***

Why Would Anyone Reject The Words of Eternal Life?

- They include words of warning:
 - Lk. 12:15 → “Take heed and beware of covetousness...” (I Tim. 6:6-10)
 - Matt. 15:13 → Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.
 - Lk. 13:3 → Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 - Jn. 8:24 → 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

Why Would Anyone Reject The Words of Eternal Life?

- They include words of rebuke:
 - Matt. 23:1-3 → Jesus rebuked hypocrisy.
 - Matt. 23:6-7 → Jesus rebuked pride.
 - Matt. 23:16-22 → Jesus rebuked lying
 - Lk. 18:14-18 → Jesus rebuked self-righteousness.
 - Matt. 22:29 → Jesus rebuked ignorance.
 - Lk. 6:46 → Jesus rebuked disobedience.

Why Would Anyone Reject The Words of Jesus?

- They include “hard sayings”:
 - Matt. 10:34-39 → He must take precedence above all others in our lives.
 - Matt. 19:9-10 → Only one reason for divorce /divorce and remarriage.
 - Lk. 13:3 → I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
 - Mk. 16:16 → He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned.