

Will You Also Go Away?

John 6:64-68

Introduction

- The scene described here is nearly unthinkable to us: here were people who had been with Jesus, seen and experienced his miracles, heard his matchless teaching and yet turned away from him.
- We look at that and say “I wouldn’t have done that”.
- We know what happens when one makes that choice, to quit following Jesus.
 - We understand the consequences.
 - Can you see yourself ever making that choice – leaving Christ: no longer worshipping faithfully, praying, reading, studying his word, seeking to live a life pleasing to him?
- The sad truth is, a lot of people do turn away from following Jesus.
 - 60-70% of young people raised in the church turn their backs on the Lord when they go off to college.
 - The attrition rate over all is about 50%.
 - If I’m a young person, or a parent those numbers ought to cause me to do some serious thinking.
 - Older are not immune to leaving Jesus either.
- Lesson: Why does that happen? What are some of the factors, excuses, pitfalls for which we must be on our most sober guard? How must we respond to them?

I. Some Are Led To Believe That Intelligent People Just Don’t Believe The Bible

- It’s inspired Authorship. The Genesis account of creation. Even the existence of God.
- Most college instructors do not believe the Bible.
 - They may seek to undermine your faith.
 - Challenge, mock, deride, insult belief in the Bible, by teaching evolution and asserting that it is accepted by all intelligent folks.
 - Sadly some, buy into this absurd and false teaching and turn their backs on Jesus.
- Some questions that one needs to ask the teacher:
 - Since something presently exists, and nothing comes from nothing, what is eternal? Mind or matter?
 - If dead, lifeless matter, how did it become alive with intelligence and consciousness?
 - What caused this vast universe? (Heb. 3:4; Ps. 8:3-4; Rom. 1:18-20,22; Ps. 14:1)
 - Where did it get the intricate design and order that it manifest? (Ps. 19:1-6; 139:14)
 - Where did you get your information?
 - The believer got their information from the one who was there. (II Tim. 3:16-17; Gen. 1:1)
- Ps. 119:99 → I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

II. Some Leave Because They Decide That They Had Rather Live In Sin

- If they follow Jesus will “miss out” on too much of the fun, thrills, excitement, associations that a life of sin and worldliness has to offer.
- The Devil is the world’s all-time con.
- Gen. 3:1-8: Eve knew the commandment and the consequences of violation. The Devil lied. She bought into the lie. As a result Adam and Eve received the consequences of their transgression: shame, guilt, fear, expulsion from the garden, separation of God, death. It didn’t work out the way the Devil promised.
- The Devil works the same way today: (I Pet. 5:8; II Cor. 2:11)
 - God has given commands in his word: (Col. 3:8-10; Eph. 5:5-11; Gal. 5:19-21)
 - Satan says, you’re missing out, can sin without consequences. Puts a false face on sin. Just one time won’t hurt. Everyone is doing it.
 - People still believe the ultimate Liar, and suffer the consequences of their sinful choices.
 - Like Eve, sin and suffer the consequences.
 - Eventually, everyone learns that God is right.

III. Some Come To Believe That Being A Christian Is Just An Irrelevant, Boring Exercise

- The Devil wants to convince us that being a Christian is about little or nothing more than “going to church” on Sunday and going through the motions of worship.
 - Some buy into it.
 - Just enough to keep others “off their back”.
 - The description of the “nominal” Christian.
 - Miserable with half-hearted service look for an excuse to quit doing the little they are doing, and so “I just don’t get anything out of it” suffices.
 - Sad truth is – half-hearted hangers on eventually fall off or become cynics.
- The key is understanding that serving God is about whole-hearted devotion (Matt. 22:37):
 - A relationship with him as our Father. (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 8:14-16)
 - Receiving his word on a daily basis. (Ps. 1:1-2)
 - Communicating with him regularly. (I Thess. 5:17)
 - Whole-hearted expressing our gratitude, praise and devotion to him in worship. (Ps. 18:3; Jn. 4:24)
 - Learning and living his will to please him. (Matt. 7:21)
 - Serving, giving of self to others. (Js. 1:27)
 - Fellowship with a spiritual family. (I Jn. 1:3)
 - Sharing the gospel with others. (Phil. 2:15-16)
 - The joy of hope. (Rom. 12:12)
- We know these things now. The challenge is to remember these things when the Devil begins to work on us and turn us into a half-hearted clinger.

IV. *Some Leave Jesus Because Someone Mistreated Them*

- Some feeling mistreated, who got in a fuss, conflict, etc. with another Christian, decide to turn their back on Jesus and abandon him.
- Is that a rational thing to do? Someone else injures, insults you, so you turn your back on Jesus?
 - The one who left heaven, loves and died for you? (II Cor. 8:9; Jn. 3:16)
 - Are you mad at him too? What did he do to you?
 - Some matters to consider:
 - How are such matters to be handled? (Matt. 15:18)
 - Have you allowed yourself to be overcome of evil. (Rom. 12:21)
 - What do such actions say about the level of your spiritual maturity? (I Cor. 16:13)
 - Where will such actions led to in eternity?
 - If you turn your back on Jesus, where else is there to go? (Jn. 6:66-68)