

## Peter's Confession of Faith (John 6:66-71 NASB)

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### Text:

66. As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.
67. So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"
68. Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.
69. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
70. Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"
71. Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him. (John 6:66-71 NASB)

### Outline:

- I. Disciples Withdraw From Jesus (v.66)
- II. Jesus Questions His Disciples (v.67)
- III. Peter Answers For the Disciples (vv.68-69)
- IV. Jesus Knows His True Disciples (vv.70-71)

### Worksheet:

- I. Disciples Withdraw From Jesus (v.66)
  - a. "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew..."
    - i. Why did many of Jesus' disciples "withdraw" from Him? (vv.53-56, 65)  
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    - ii. Which disciples was this verse referring to? (v.66)  
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  - b. "... were not walking with Him anymore."
    - i. What does "not walking" signify relative to these disciples' relationship with Christ after His "hard sayings"?  
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    - ii. Was this a temporary change or permanent change in their relationship with Christ when considering the word "anymore" in this verse? (v.66)  
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1. "For this is contained in Scripture: 'Behold , I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, **And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.**' This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, 'The stone which the builders rejected , This became the very corner stone,' and, 'A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense'; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed." (1 Peter 2:6-8 NASB)
2. "Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. **They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also." (1 John 2:18-19, 22-23 NASB)

II. Jesus Questions His Disciples (v.67)

a. "So Jesus said to the twelve,..."

- i. Jesus seeing many of the disciples "withdrawing" asked this question of the twelve disciples whom He had personally chosen. Was this question for His benefit or theirs? *[discussion]*

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- ii. Describe the scene as Jesus completed His "hard sayings" to those who were following Him up to this point in His earthly ministry. *[discussion]*

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b. "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

- i. Was Jesus looking for informative answers from the disciples?

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- ii. Was the response that He expected from the disciples a "collective/group" or "individual/personal" response?

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III. Peter Answers For the Disciples (vv.68-69)

a. "Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go?'" (68a)

- i. Was Peter's response "individual" or "collective" in nature?

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- ii. Was Peter's actually speaking for each member of the group?

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- iii. What was Peter saying in essence?
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- b. "You have words of eternal life." (v.68b)
- i. Peter recognized that Jesus had (has) the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. What were (are) the words of eternal life that Jesus had (has)? (5:24, 6:50, 51, 54)[*discussion*]
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- c. "We have believed..." (69a)
- i. Peter, presuming to speak for all members of the group says, "we have believed", but little did he know, he was not speaking for all twelve of the disciples. Was he even really speaking for himself in the truest sense? [*discussion*]
  - ii. He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 16:15-17 NASB)
- d. "... and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." (v.69b)
- i. Is knowing who Jesus Christ is enough to prove faith in Him? [*discussion*]
  - ii. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have **turned again (thou art converted [KJV], returned to Me [NKJV])**, strengthen your brothers." But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:31-34 NASB)
  - iii. "You believe that God is one. You do well; the **demons also believe, and shudder.**" (James 2:19 NASB)
  - iv. Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and **bowed down** before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God?** I implore You by God, do not torment me (command us to go away into the abyss [Luke 8:31])! " For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." (Mark 5:5-9, Matt 8:26-33; Luke 8:27-31 NASB)

- IV. Jesus Knows His True Disciples (vv.70-71)
- a. "Jesus answered them, 'Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve...'" (v.70a)
    - i. Jesus reminds the disciples that they didn't \_\_\_\_\_ Him, but He \_\_\_\_\_ them.
    - ii. Jesus once again demonstrates His power to "know what is in man" (John 2:24-25) as He makes reference to one of the disciples, whom He had chosen, as being "a devil".
  - b. "... and yet one of you is a devil?" (v.70b)
    - i. Even despite Jesus choosing each one of the twelve disciples, one of them was "a devil" and would soon betray Him (John 13:18)
    - ii. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. (John 17:12 NASB)
      1. My enemies speak evil against me, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And when he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood; His heart gathers wickedness to itself; When he goes outside, he tells it. All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt, saying, "A wicked thing is poured out upon him, That when he lies down, he will not rise up again." **Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.** (Psalms 41:5-9 NASB)
      2. O God of my praise, Do not be silent! For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me; They have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without cause. In return for my love they act as my accusers; But I am in prayer. Thus they have repaid me evil for good And hatred for my love. Appoint a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is judged, let him come forth guilty, And let his prayer become sin. **Let his days be few; Let another take his office.** (Psalms 109:1-8 NASB)
  - c. "Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot..." (71a)
    - i. Iscariot
      1. Hebrew word meaning "man of Kerioth"
      2. Name of a village in Judah
    - ii. Not a famous name, but a name of infamy and disgrace even in the secular world
  - d. "...for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him." (71b)
    - i. As in the other 3 Gospels, after his name is mentioned, he is identified as the betrayer
    - ii. Attention is once again given to the fact that Jesus foreknew what Judas was going to do regarding his betrayal of Jesus to the religious leaders