

WHY ARE WE FOLLOWING JESUS?

(No. 1052 – 3/2/14 - NLC)

Read: *Will the Real Church Please Stand Up?* (Yoars, Marcus, p.8 *Charisma*, March 2014)

JOHN 6 – [Interesting sequence in the NIV headings: *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, Jesus Walks on the Water, Jesus the Bread of Life, Many Disciples Desert Jesus*]

- ❖ **vv.1-2:** a *great crowd* following (because of miracles)
- ❖ **vv.5-13:** 5,000 men + women & children (Mat. 14:21)
- ❖ **vv.14-15:** they wanted to make Him king!
- ❖ **vv.22-24:** the *crowd* still searching for/following Him
- ❖ **vv.25-40:** true Bread for true believers

Within the crowd, there was a **much smaller group** that the Father gave, drew and enabled (vv.37, 39, 44, 65)

- ❖ **vv.41-43:** they started **grumbling**
 - Jesus “comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable!”
 - We often want to learn only about the **benefits** of following Christ, but He repeatedly taught about the **costs** of discipleship!
- ❖ **vv.44-45:** drawn, taught by & listening to the Father
- ❖ **vv.51-59:** eat this Bread... eat My flesh... drink My blood = partake of Christ
 - v.52 – some became very angry, fighting & quarreling
 - Based on their response to His teaching, He was not talking about coming to the communion table!
 - Christ is the true Passover (1 Cor. 5:7), and the law according to Ex. 12 was that they had to *eat the whole lamb... head, legs & inner parts!*
- ❖ **vv.60-61:** *many of His disciples* (up until now it had just been the Jews complaining) were grumbling & **offended** [Gk. *skandalizo* = “tripped up, made to stumble”]
 - 1 Pet. 2:5-9 – Jesus the *Scandalon* = Rock of offense, the stumbling Stone
 - *A hard teaching* – not hard to understand, hard to *accept!*

- ❖ **vv.61-66:** *many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him!*
- ❖ **vv.67-69:** *Do you want to leave too?*
 - Jesus made no apologies, no attempts to clarify what He meant, no pleas to stay!
 - Peter's answer: *Lord, **TO WHOM** shall we go? **You have the WORDS of eternal life. We BELIEVE and KNOW that you are the Holy One of God.***
 - Peter wasn't perfect, but he had a revelation of who Christ was (Mat. 16:15-17)

SUMMARY:

1. Has the Father called, drawn, taught, spoken to us?
2. Do we really know who Jesus is? Do we have a revelation that He is the Christ, the Bread, the Word, and the Holy One of God?
3. Do we believe? [see vv.29-30, 35-36, 40, 47, 64, 69]
4. Are we willing to eat/drink/partake of Christ? [see **Phil. 3:7-11; Gal. 2:20**]
5. What is my covenant/commitment...I have decided to follow Jesus, **NO TURNING BACK!**