

## RESOLVING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT JESUS – PART 2

John 6:41-71

**(John 6:40-71)**, “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. {41} The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. {42} And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? {43} Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. {44} No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. {45} It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. {46} Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. {47} Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. {48} I am that bread of life. {49} Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. {50} This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. {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. {52} The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? {53} Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. {54} Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. {55} For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. {56} He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. {57} As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. {58} This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. {59} These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. {60} Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? {61} When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? {62} What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? {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. {64} But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. {65} And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. {66} From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. {67} Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? {68} Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. {69} And we believe and are sure that thou art

that Christ, the Son of the living God. {70} Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? {71} He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.”



- S** The day after Jesus had fed the five thousand, **THE CROWD** searched for and **FOUND JESUS AT CAPERNAUM** about **three or four miles** from where the miracle had taken place. **THE CROWD HAD NOT SOUGHT JESUS WITH PURE MOTIVES**. They sought Jesus **for the same reasons** they sought their **JOBBS**. They **WANTED JESUS TO PUT BREAD ON THEIR TABLES**. Jesus said to them:
- C (V. 26)**, “. . . Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, **BUT BECAUSE YE DID EAT OF THE LOAVES, AND WERE FILLED.**”
- C (John 2:23-24)**, “. . . Many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. {24} But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, **BECAUSE HE KNEW ALL MEN.**”
- S** Upon finding Jesus, **THE CROWD BEGAN ASKING HIM QUESTIONS**. **WITH EACH ANSWER** Jesus gave, their hearts **grew harder and more distant** from Jesus. **Eventually** the crowd became so **disillusioned** with Jesus that they outright rejected Him (V. 66).

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IN THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE WE **EXAMINED FOUR OF THE SIX EXCHANGES** between Jesus and this crowd. In this message we **WILL REVIEW** THE FIRST FOUR EXCHANGES and **WILL EXAMINE** THE REMAINING TWO EXCHANGES.

### **EXCHANGE #1:**

**(V. 25)**, “And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, **‘RABBI, WHEN CAMEST THOU HITHER?’**”

- S** **JESUS DID NOT ANSWER THEIR QUESTION. HE IGNORED IT** altogether. **JESUS COULD HAVE MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF** His journey to Capernaum. He could have informed them of how He had walked on water in the middle of the storm in the dark of night. He could have **dazzled** the crowd.

S **RATHER THAN TRYING TO IMPRESS THE CROWD, JESUS ALL BUT OFFENDED THEM:**

**(V. 26)**, “. . . Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but **BECAUSE YE DID EAT** of the loaves, and **WERE FILLED.**”

S Jesus went on to tell the crowd that they should work for food that would not perish (V. 27).

### EXCHANGE #2:

**(V. 28)**, “Then said they unto him, ‘**WHAT SHALL WE DO, THAT WE MIGHT WORK THE WORKS OF GOD?**’”

S JESUS ANSWERED:

**(V. 29)**, “. . . This is the work of God, that ye **BELIEVE ON HIM** whom he hath sent.”

S THE **TWO KEY WORDS ARE “HIM”** (meaning “Jesus”) and **“BELIEVE.”** God requires that the world believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. IF WE WANT TO **PLEASE GOD, WE MUST BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST.**

C **(John 3:16)**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **BELIEVETH IN HIM** should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

C **(John 3:36)**, “He that **BELIEVETH** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

C **(Heb 11:6)**, “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

### EXCHANGE #3:

**(V. 30-31)**, “They said therefore unto him, ‘**WHAT SIGN SHOWEST THOU THEN, THAT WE MAY SEE, AND BELIEVE THEE? WHAT DOST THOU WORK?**’ {31} Our fathers did eat **MANNA** in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

S THE CROWD BROUGHT UP **THE O.T. SIGN OF MANNA** AS AN OBJECT FOR **COMPARISON.** THE CROWD MUST HAVE FELT THAT **Jesus’ miracle** of feeding the five thousand **FELL SHORT** of Moses’ miracle. Moses’ miracle lasted for **forty years**, whereas Jesus’ miracle only lasted for one evening. In their thinking, if Jesus wanted them to believe in Him, He **would have to do better** THAN JUST PROVIDE ONE MEAL. Jesus would have to prove Himself **superior to Moses.**

S **JESUS RESPONDED TO THE CROWD:**

**(V. 32-33)**, “. . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you **THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.** {33} For **THE BREAD OF GOD IS HE** which cometh down from heaven, and **GIVETH LIFE** unto the world.”

S THAT RESPONSE **SPARKED** A FOURTH EXCHANGE:

### EXCHANGE #4:

**(V. 34)**, “Then said they unto him, ‘**LORD, EVERMORE GIVE US THIS BREAD.**’”

S We have a **common expression** that summarizes what the crowd was attempting to say — **PUT UP, OR SHUT UP.** They wanted Jesus to quit talking and start providing the proof. THEY WANTED TO **FORCE JESUS TO PROVE HIS WORDS WITH ACTIONS.** They all but said, **“PROVE YOURSELF BY SETTING THE TABLE AND SERVING THE BREAD!”**

S JESUS GAVE **A TWOFOLD RESPONSE:**

(1) **(V. 35)**, **“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”**

(2) **(V. 36)**, “. . . **YE ALSO HAVE SEEN ME, AND BELIEVE NOT.**”

The crowd had **not rejected** Jesus because of a lack of evidence. They had seen what Jesus could do and they rejected Jesus in spite of the overwhelming evidence. Their exchanges with Jesus were **SIMPLY SMOKE SCREENS** TO COVER UP their unbelief.

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FROM A PURELY **EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE**, it seems logical that Jesus would have easily BECOME **DISCOURAGED**. Jesus did not become discouraged because He operated from an **ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**. The crowd's rejection of Jesus did not mean that Jesus had failed, and Jesus understood that truth completely.

**(V. 37)**, "ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVETH ME **SHALL COME TO ME**; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

FOUR THOUGHTS:

- 1) **"ALL"** – "All" includes everyone who fits the category described by Jesus.
- 2) **"THE FATHER GIVETH ME"** – The ones who come to Jesus are gifts from the Father.
- 3) **"SHALL COME"** – There is no hint of failure. Victory is assured.
- 4) **"AND HIM THAT COMETH TO ME I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT"** – This means **WHEN A MURDERER** like **SAUL** comes, He finds forgiveness in Christ. It means when a **DEMON POSSESSED PERSON** like **MARY MAGDALENE** comes, she finds forgiveness in Christ.

C JESUS **DIDN'T GET UPTIGHT** when that crowd rejected Him **because** HE **KNEW THAT WHEN PEOPLE REFUSED TO COME TO HIM**, it was because they refused to come to the Father. **IF** people **RESPONDED TO** Him, it was because they **HAD RESPONDED TO THE FATHER**. It was really just that simple. If they accepted the Father, then they accepted the Son. If they rejected the Father, then they rejected the Son. There is nothing complicated about that.

C THAT TRUTH **CAN BE APPLIED** to our sharing Jesus with others. **WHEN A PERSON REJECTS** the message of Jesus Christ, it is because they have rejected the Father. **IN LIKE MANNER**, when **SOMEONE ACCEPTS** the message of Jesus, it is because they accept the Father. It is not because they have accepted us, or rejected us. Our burden is not to determine who does, and who does not believe. That burden belongs to the Father. Why should we expect anyone to accept the gospel when we share it, if they do not

accept the Father? **Our burden is to share the message.**

C **JESUS SAID IT THIS WAY:**

**(John 15:20)**, "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; **IF THEY HAVE KEPT MY SAYING, THEY WILL KEEP YOURS ALSO.**"

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MARK IT DOWN CLEAR AND PLAIN, **JESUS RECEIVES ALL WHO COME TO HIM**. ANOTHER TRUTH JUST AS SIGNIFICANT IS THAT **HE ALSO KEEPS ALL WHO COME TO HIM!** He loses none that come to Him.

(IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ALL who follow Jesus ARE GENUINE in their faith toward Jesus. THE CROWD in John 6 is an example of those who were religious, but who were lost. Those folks didn't follow Jesus because they had faith in Jesus, they followed Him because they wanted bread. JUDAS followed Jesus, too, but he did not follow Jesus because he had faith in Jesus.

**(V. 70-71)**, "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? {71} He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."

**(Mat 7:21-23)**, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.")

**(V. 39-40)**, "And **THIS IS THE FATHER'S WILL** which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me **I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING**, but should raise it up again at the last day. {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."

S WE WONDER SOMETIMES WHAT WILL BECOME OF **NEW BELIEVERS** in Christ. All those whom the Father gives to the Son and who come to Him **will persevere** and **will be raised** in the last day. They will be among the redeemed on the day of resurrection. They persevere because it is the Father's will that the Son *should lose nothing*. When they come to the Son, **they are given eternal life** and eternal life is life that lasts forever.

S **(V. 37)**, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

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**TODAY'S MESSAGE PICKS UP WITH THE FINAL TWO EXCHANGES** between Jesus and the crowd. Both exchanges indicate an increasing hardness toward Jesus.

**(V. 41)**, "The Jews then **MURMURED** at him, **BECAUSE** he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven."

**S WITH MURMURING LIPS THEY ASK:**

**EXCHANGE #5:**

**(V. 42)**, "And they said, '**IS NOT THIS JESUS, THE SON OF JOSEPH, WHOSE FATHER AND MOTHER WE KNOW? HOW IS IT THEN THAT HE SAITH, I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN?'**"

**S THAT WAS A LOGICAL QUESTION.** Had we been there that day, we might have asked the same question. The crowd knew that Jesus had grown up in **NAZARETH** which was located about **twenty miles** from Capernaum. They knew that He had grown up in **THE HOME OF JOSEPH AND MARY.**

JESUS WAS **SPEAKING ACCURATELY** when He told them that He had **come down** from heaven (Phil 2:6-7; Gal 4:4; John 1:1; John 1:14). Jesus had been **conceived by** the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth, but He was from heaven. Jesus was **God in human flesh** (John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim 3:16).

RATHER THAN SPELLING OUT THOSE DETAILS TO THE CROWD, WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE MOST CERTAINLY REJECTED, **JESUS SIMPLY SAID TO THEM:**

**(V. 43)**, "... **MURMUR NOT AMONG YOURSELVES.**"

**S JESUS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN WHAT WAS REQUIRED** for them to be able to believe in Him.

**(V. 44)**, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

**S IN OTHER WORDS, no one can come to God by his own ingenuity. THE ONLY WAY** for a person to come to Jesus is for the Father to **DRAW HIM.** Consider a couple of examples.

(1) When **PETER TOLD JESUS** that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Mat 16:16), **JESUS SAID** to Peter: **(Mat 16:17)**, "... **Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**"

(2) **JESUS PRAYED**

**(Luke 10:21)**, "At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight." (Mat 11:25)

**S SOME YEARS AGO, A MAN AT WORK** was living his life in the fast lane. He had no time, nor appetite, for God. I shared with him his need for salvation through Jesus Christ. He shared with me his intention to live the way he wanted to without regard for God's Word. He also told of his intention to commit his life to Jesus right before he died. It was clear that he was oblivious to the truth of **John 6:44.** The fact that **sudden death** might suddenly rob him of the opportunity to accept Christ seemed never to have been a serious consideration for him.

**S IT IS A GRAVE MISCONCEPTION** to believe that a person can believe in Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit. Many lost people think to themselves, "I will come to Jesus any time I get really ready to do so." The truth is, a person can come to Jesus when the Father draws him.

**THE GOOD NEWS:**

**(V. 45)**, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. **EVERY MAN THEREFORE** that hath **heard**, and hath **learned** of the Father, **COMETH UNTO ME.**"

**S EVERYONE WHO HAS LEARNED OF GOD THE FATHER WILL COME** to God the Son, Jesus Christ. They will not go to another. They come to Jesus, and Jesus alone. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and **THEY FOLLOW ME**" (John 10:27).

**S WHY DO THEY COME TO JESUS AND NOT TO SOME OTHER PERSON? TWO REASONS:**

(1) **JESUS ALONE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE:**

**C (V. 48)**, "I am that bread of life."

C **(V. 51)**, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: . . ."

(2) **JESUS ALONE GIVES ETERNAL LIFE:**

C **(V. 47)**, "... He that believeth **ON ME HATH EVERLASTING LIFE.**"

C **(V. 51)**, "... 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."

S When Jesus said, "**I will give my flesh . . . for the life of the world,**" He was speaking of His coming death on the cross which would serve as the sacrifice for the sins of the world (John 3:16; 1 Pet 2:24).

S **THE CROWD DID NOT UNDERSTAND** what Jesus meant by giving his flesh. Since they had rejected Jesus and refused to accept what He said, **THEY TOOK OFFENSE!**

**EXCHANGE #6:**

**(V. 52)**, "The Jews therefore **STROVE** among themselves, saying, **HOW CAN THIS MAN GIVE US HIS FLESH TO EAT?"**

S **RATHER THAN SOFTENING** their hearts toward Jesus, they **BECAME HARDER** toward Jesus. They **dug in** their heels and **stiffened** their necks.

S It is interesting **WHAT JESUS DID** in response to their hardness. In the course of Jesus answering their question, Jesus changed the Greek word He used for *eating*. Jesus originally used the word "**PHAGO**" (fag'-o) which simply meant "to eat." In V. 54 He used the stronger word "**TROGO**" (tro'-go) which carries the idea of gnawing or chewing. **VINES** says the word "**stresses the slow process**" of eating.

S Rather than Jesus making what He had to say more palatable, **JESUS GAVE THE CROWD SOMETHING THAT WAS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO CHEW.** The more **persistent** his hearers became in their unbelief, the **MORE FORCEFUL** Jesus became in His response. **JESUS BECAME SO STRONG WITH HIS ANSWERS**

THAT HE LITERALLY BEGAN TO **CONFOUND** HIS LISTENERS.

**(V. 53)**, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye **EAT** [fag'-o] the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

**(V. 54)**, "Whoso **EATETH** [tro'-go] my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

A VERY **IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE** IS REVEALED IN THIS PASSAGE. WHEN A PEOPLE **stubbornly reject the clear Word of God**, then **GOD OFTEN CONFOUNDS THEIR UNBELIEF** causing them to experience **A DEEPER BLINDNESS.** Jesus knew the crowd had determined not to believe in Him, He therefore **exposed** their rejection of Him. **Jesus would not let them hide their unbelief in a closet.** He brought their rejection out into the open and made it evident.

That crowd **HAD SEEN** Jesus feed the multitude, and yet they refused to believe in Jesus. They **HAD LISTENED** to Jesus explain to them **who He was**, and yet **they still stubbornly rejected Him.** In essence, Jesus said, "OKAY, if that is your reaction to God's truth, then try this on for size – '**Eat My flesh, drink My blood.**'" Rather than making it easier for them to accept Him, He actually made it more difficult. He **deliberately CONFOUNDED THEM.**

SOMEONE SAYS, "**GOD WOULDN'T DELIBERATELY** make it more difficult for someone to believe." Be careful drawing conclusions about God without first consulting God's Word, the Bible. We need to let God's Word speak for itself rather than imposing our opinions upon it.

Before addressing this very serious subject, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT **ANYTIME** a person has an honest question of God, **God will do what is necessary** to answer that question. If a person **truly desires God**, God will be found of him.

IN JOHN 3, **NICODEMUS** was sincere in his pursuit of Jesus. Nicodemus said to Jesus, "**Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him**" (John 3:2). Jesus totally ignored what Nicodemus said and immediately began to talk to him about being *born again*. Jesus revealed His will to Nicodemus because He knew he was sincere.

**IN CONTRAST TO NICODEMUS**, Jesus' statement to the unbelieving crowd in John 6 was, ". . . **Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled**" (V. 26). Their questions were **A COVERUP** for their rejection of God's truth.

When a person's question is simply **a smokescreen** to cover their stubborn refusal to believe God's Word, then GOD OFTEN **CONFOUNDS** THEIR UNBELIEF.

**THE BIBLE GIVES SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THIS TRUTH:**

### **#1. PHARAOH**

**(Exo 8:15 NKJV)**, "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **HE HARDENED HIS HEART** and did not heed them, as the LORD had said."

**(Exo 10:1 NKJV)**, "Now the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for **I HAVE HARDENED HIS HEART** and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,"

**S** One verse reveals that Pharaoh hardened his heart and the other verse reads that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Both explanations describe what happened.

**S PHARAOH** was presented with God's clear Word from Moses. Pharaoh was also permitted to see **ten mighty miracles** of God. Pharaoh had **all the evidence he needed** to believe in God, but he stubbornly refused to believe. Rather than believe, Pharaoh hardened his heart. Every additional Word, or act of God, resulted in Pharaoh hardening his heart that much more. In response to Pharaoh's choice to harden his heart, God hardened Pharaoh's heart. The process was *Pharaoh hardened his heart*, followed by *God hardening Pharaoh's heart*. The process of hardening continued until Pharaoh was killed in the Red Sea having never experienced God's forgiveness.

**(James 4:6)**, ". . . **GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE.**"

### **#2. JOHN 12**

**(John 12:37-40)**, "But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: {38} That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? {39} Therefore they could not believe,

because that Isaiah said again, {40} **HE HATH BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HARDENED THEIR HEART**; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."

**S** When people have a negative reaction to God's Word, it does not indicate that God's Word has failed. God's Word always accomplishes that which it is sent to do.

**(Isa 55:11)**, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but **it shall accomplish that which I please**, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Some have mistakenly concluded that God's Word is designed only to save, when in reality, God's Word sometimes judges and condemns.

### **S JEREMIAH**

**(Jer 23:29)**, "Is not MY WORD LIKE AS **A FIRE?** saith the LORD; and like **A HAMMER** that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

**A HAMMER** can be used to construct a building. A hammer can also be used to tear down a building. In both instances the purpose of the hammer is fulfilled.

**A FIRE** can be used to melt wax. A fire can also be used to harden clay. In both instances the purpose of the fire is fulfilled.

**S** When the fire and hammer of God's Word are applied to the human heart, it either hardens or softens that heart. It either builds a life, or tears it down. In either instance, it accomplishes what it was sent to do.

### **#3. 2 THESSALONIANS 2**

**(2 Th 2:9-12)**, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {11} **AND FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION**, that they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

**S** **THREE TIMES IN ROMANS 1** it is stated of certain people that **GOD GAVE THEM UP**. Those people were going their own way regardless of God's truth, and as a result, God gave them over to their ways.

S **(Prov 29:1)**, “He, that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

RATHER THAN JESUS MAKING IT EASIER for the crowd to believe Him, HE MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT. **HE DID NOT WANT** them following Him WITH **MOTIVES UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD.**

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**NOW, HOW ABOUT JESUS’ TROUBLESOME STATEMENT REGARDING HIS “FLESH” AND HIS “BLOOD”?**

**(V. 53-54)**, “. . . Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. {54} Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

THE ANSWER IS AVAILABLE FOR ANY WHO TRULY DESIRE TO KNOW:

**(V. 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.**”

Jesus communicated using **A FIGURE OF SPEECH.** If the crowd wanted to take what Jesus said and use it as an excuse not to follow Him, Jesus had provided them with the ammunition. But for those who truly sought Jesus, they understood that Jesus meant that He was **THE ONE WHO GAVE ETERNAL LIFE.** In order to have eternal life, **JESUS HAD TO BE RECEIVED IN THE SPIRITUAL SENSE LIKE BREAD HAS TO BE RECEIVED IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE (John 1:12).** Jesus was simply telling the crowd they had to receive Jesus by believing in Him.

THE **KEY WORD** IS **“BELIEVE.”** Listen for the words **“BELIEVE ON HIM”** and **“BELIEVE ON ME.”**

C **(V. 29)**, “. . . This is the work of God, that ye **BELIEVE ON HIM** whom he hath sent.”

C **(V. 35)**, “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that **BELIEVETH ON ME** shall never thirst.”

C **(V. 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.”

C **(V. 47)**, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **BELIEVETH ON ME** hath everlasting life.”

**WHEN WE BELIEVE IN JESUS, GOD GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE.**

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**TWO DIFFERENT THINGS HAPPENED THE LISTENERS THAT DAY IN CAPERNAUM**

**#1. THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED JESUS** (They responded)

**(V. 67-69)**, “Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? {68} Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. {69} And **WE BELIEVE** and **ARE SURE** that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

**#2. THE CROWD REJECTED JESUS** (They reacted)

**(V. 66)**, “From that time many of his disciples **WENT BACK**, and **WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM.**”

S **THEY** concluded that Jesus was of no value, or worth, and thus treated him as *a nothing*. He who was of incredible eternal value was treated as valueless.

S Such reaction to God’s Word **DID NOT INDICATE** that God’s Word had failed. God’s Word accomplished that which it was sent to do. When God’s Word is preached, it sometimes drives a person away.

**(1 John 2:19)**, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

S **JESUS IS STILL TREATED BY SOME IN THE SAME MANNER TODAY.** What a sad and shocking day it will be in eternity when they discover that Jesus is the eternal God and judge of all humanity.

**(V. 35)**, “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”