



The Desertion of the Disciples

JOHN 60-69 NIV
A SERMON BY REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY
PASTOR

Sunday, March 24 , 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Sermon Title: The Desertion of the Disciples

Scripture: John 6:60-69



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Sermon Summary

Pastor Wesley continues his sermon series "That You May Believe" by examining the discipleship journey of the multitude that Jesus fed. Using the entirety of John 6 as the scriptural foundation, we learn that the crowd that just experienced a miracle, quickly became disillusioned when they discovered that their walk with Jesus wasn't what they anticipated.

This week, Pastor reminds us that when we experience difficulties in discipleship, we should remember the many signs and miracles that we have already experienced, and trust God to be our source of sustenance.

Key Points

Some people give up on God because:

1. They miss the meaning and the message of the miracles.
2. They are dissuaded by the difficulties of discipleship.
3. They are fixated on feeding their flesh.

Notes for Facilitators:

We encourage you to have your Villagers read the entirety of John 6 before their Village gathering and then continue to review The Gospel of John during their devotional time. Also be mindful that the winter Village season is coming to a close soon. This is a good time to begin planning a closing activity for your Village or setting aside time to worship together as a Village family.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Please explain.
2. Are you fasting from something for Lent that requires sacrifice? How is that challenge strengthening you spiritually?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. John 6:60 shows us that our biggest difficulties are often internally with God. Similarly, we learned in the sermon about Job that he said, "though he slay me, yet will I trust him." What other lessons from the Bible teach us that though God allows discomfort in our lives, God has proven Himself worthy to be trusted?
2. In John 6:35 when Jesus says, "I am the bread of life," He was inviting them to change their appetite. How can we change our appetite from what we want to what Jesus offers?
3. In John 6:64, Jesus references those who have been following Him but don't believe in Him. What is the difference between being a follower and a believer?

Life Application Questions:

1. We have a credit score that reflects our history of faithful finances and we also have a spiritual credit score. How can we tell what our spiritual credit score is and how can we raise it?
2. The followers of Jesus were waiting for a sign to believe in Him because they mistook the miracle they experienced as provision. Have you ever overlooked a sign from God only to realize that God has already shown you what you're looking for?
3. Have you had an experience in your spiritual walk that made you want to walk away from God? What brought you back into discipleship or prevented you from walking away?
4. John 6:27 says, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life." If discomfort and adversity are inevitable in life, what strategies can we use to encourage ourselves so that we are not dissuaded by the difficulties of discipleship?



"Can I Push It?"

Think about the concept posed in this sermon: often times our wrestle with God is harder than our struggle with Satan. When we struggle with Satan, we can ask God for help; but where do we go when we wrestle with God? How do you respond or pray when you are struggling with God?

Spirit Work:

In his sermon, Pastor Wesley states "you don't need God to perform another miracle [in your life], you just need to walk down memory lane." This week, take a moment to do an inventory of 2018. What miracles, blessings, and great things did God perform last year? Write out your list and spend time lifting up a prayer of gratitude.



Activity:

Flashback moment! This sermon reminds us that some people give up on God when the difficulties of discipleship become too great. But Pastor reminds us that when we get a flashback of the past and remember God's goodness, we are encouraged to move on. Village members should get into a circle and shout out different ways God has blessed you. *I.e.* "I bought a new house..." "My child was accepted into college..." If a member's testimony also applies to you, step up into the circle and yell "Flashback moment!"

Additional Questions for Married Couples Villages:

1. During the various seasons of marriage, how do you handle the moments when you might feel like giving up on yourself, your spouse or the marriage? How do you trust God during these times?
2. In this week's passage, Jesus' disciples were drawn to Him for one reason but then realized that the experience of being a follower of Jesus wasn't what they expected it to be. How has your understanding of what it means to be married changed from your earlier expectations of marriage?

Additional Questions for Young Adults Villages:

1. Imagine going to sleep with 12,000 followers on Instagram and waking up to only 12 followers. How would that make you feel? Would you be compelled to change your message to regain your lost followers?
2. With so many temptations in today's society, how do you stay faithful in your walk when you see other followers of Jesus go astray?

Additional Questions for Parents Villages

1. Parents are continually praying for their children. In what areas have you experienced disappointment with God's response to your prayers as a parent?
2. How do you explain to your children that prayers are sometimes answered in unexpected ways?

Additional Questions for Women's Villages:

1. How do you handle hard trials and disappointments that might make you question God or the promises of God's Word? Is there a time you experienced something and found it hard to trust God?
2. God knows the condition of our hearts and sends circumstances that will test us to reveal our own hearts. How do we respond to such exposure? (See John 6:67-68)