

RCMI L-Path Teaching

June 26, 2022

TITLE: WHEN THE BREAD IS HARD TO SWALLOW

TEXT: John 6: 60-69, NIV

BI: The bread of life is hard to swallow for those who fail to acknowledge the context of the miracle, who fail to accept the cost of discipleship, and who fail to appreciate the comfort of the Spirit.

Introduction

- The Gospel of John tells the story of the life and ministry of Jesus from an insider's point of view since John was part of Jesus' "inner circle" along with Peter and James. The emphasis of John's gospel points to Jesus as the Son of God and His unique relationship with His Father.
- "What a heartbreak it would be to live an "almost" Christian life, then "almost" get to Heaven." - Greg Laurie
- Jesus declared in John 6:35, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* As bread is necessary for physical life, Jesus is essential for spiritual and eternal life.
- Sadly, John 6: 66 reveals what happened to some of those who used to look up to Jesus. The Bible says, *"From this time, many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him."*
- These so-called disciples decided that it was okay to follow Jesus no longer when it became inconvenient.
- I wonder what caused a crowd who witnessed Jesus' miracles to decide that they weren't walking any further. Here are some reasons...

REASONS WHY THE 'DISCIPLES' FAILED THE COMMITMENT TEST. The problems that caused this crowd not to be fully committed start with this...

I. They Failed To Acknowledge The Context Of The Miracle.

[Bigo silang kilalanin ang nilalaman ng Himala]

- The Gospel of John focuses on the work of Jesus Christ. The miracles He performed are not just wondrous works but signs. John wrote in his gospel that every good work Jesus does isn't some random coincidental miracle; instead, He performs it to give revelation and disclosure to who He is. Therefore, we often find that the miracle is attached to Jesus giving self-disclosure by saying, 'I AM.'

- So, in John 6, Jesus broke bread and multiplied it a thousandfold to say: *“I am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.”* Just as He multiplied the bread with basketfuls of leftovers, if you receive who He is like the bread of life, abundance will come both physically and spiritually.
- **Jesus says the problem is that you have missed the meaning of the miracle.** He has performed the miracle, and you have received the blessing, but it gave you no divine discovery about who He is.
- It's because the recipient of the blessing failed to acknowledge the divine revelation of what Jesus was trying to prove. He did the miracle so that there might be faith in your heart and understanding in your mind of who He is.
- The crowd failed to acknowledge this truth about Jesus, but Peter did not. Peter said, *“Lord, we know you are the Christ!”* There's no doubt in my mind about who you are.
- The true disciples are humble, happy believers who are always grateful to God because they know that every good thing is from the Lord!

II. They Failed To Accept The Cost Of Discipleship

[Bigo silang tanggapan ang halaga ng *'discipleship'*]

- Jesus preached, and the false disciples learned that walking with Jesus isn't easy. They were committed for a day before realizing this was not what they signed up for. They thought every day would be mountain top, always blessed, 'Hallelujah, thank you Lord!' moments.
- The Bible says that when the crowd heard this, they said: “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” The word they used for 'hard' here literally means 'intolerable,' and it means 'unbearable.'
- The most crucial test of discipleship is trying to grasp by faith a God who doesn't always make the miracle the way you want. My biggest struggle is in dealing with God Himself.
- When wrestling with men and women, I call on God to help me, but who do I call on when my struggle is with God? Those who followed Jesus found it hard to deal with a God you don't understand. Jesus understood, and He looked to His other disciples, the twelve. He said, “I guess now you know it is hard. Are you going to leave too?”
- Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go?” We tried everything else, and nothing else can hold us together as You can. It may not be easy; it may not always be pleasant, but God, there is no other option that we have other than to walk with you and trust you and hold onto your steady hands.
- Walking with God may not be easy, but where else would you go? What options do we have? No one else can hold our life together like Jesus Christ. We've tried

other stuff, and there's no point in going back over there. Nothing can compare to a life lived in faith with Jesus Christ.

III. They Failed To Appreciate The Comfort Of The Spirit

[Bigo silang kaluguran ang kaginhawaan na dulot ng Espiritu]

- Jesus said, "Here's the problem. This crowd who joined me all wanted more bread because they wanted something that fed the flesh. But what I'm offering you is better and more satisfying than bread. Desires of the flesh profit nothing.
- Jesus has something more significant and meaningful than the things we can buy and the relationships we build. Jesus is offering you eternal life.
- Peter says, "Lord, where are we going to go? Because you alone have the words of eternal life." Speaking for the twelve, Simon Peter gave a remarkable statement of faith. He recognized Jesus as Lord. He recognized Jesus as the preferred alternative, despite the difficulties. He recognized the value of spiritual things more than the material and earthly desires of those who walked away. He recognized Jesus as the Messiah and the Exalted Son of the Living God.
- Peter's deepest desire from the Lord is, "Jesus; I want your offer of eternal life."

CHALLENGE

- I come to ask you, is that enough to make you rejoice? Is it enough to know that you've been saved to make you commit your life fully to Him?
- I need some true disciples in the house who will help remind me to rejoice always because my soul has been washed, my spirit has been strengthened, and my life has been changed. I'm heaven-bound because of Jesus, the Exalted Son of God!

DISCUSSION:

- Share recent miracles that happened to you and tell the group how they helped you discover more about who Jesus is.
- Are you willing to accept the cost of discipleship? If so, what kind of commitment are you going to make in response to this?