

Series: Called to Follow
“The Conviction of a Disciple”

John 6:35-69

Today we continue our study through the gospels as we learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. As disciples, we are to be devoted followers of Christ no matter what we face or feel in life. We have seen already that many people were intrigued by Jesus and excited to follow Him to some extent. After all, who would not want to be around Jesus and experience the many miracles that He was performing? The thought of seeing a blind man restored to sight, a lame man being able to leap and jump, or a dead man raised to life is incredible and certainly gathered a crowd of people. Additionally, many people were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. He spoke with such power and authority that everyone listened. He revealed truths and depths of the Old Testament and the kingdom of God that the wisest of leaders had yet to understand. It is easy to see how many people would seek to learn more about Him and be excited to do so. However, though Jesus cared for the people in the crowd, He was not necessarily impressed by the crowd. Being God, Jesus saw beyond the outward facade and knew the condition of each person’s heart. As the crowd continues to grow, Jesus begins to weed out the crowd. He reveals that some followed because they truly believed, but others followed for other ulterior motives and vain reasons. Last week we saw that in Luke 8 with the Parable of the Sower. There, Jesus describes the seed of the Word of God that is sown in the hearts of men. Sadly, 3/4 of the hearts represented in Jesus’ parable did not truly receive the Word and, as a result, did not reap a harvest. Jesus powerfully shows us that He came as the Living Word of God to sow the seeds of the Gospel in the hearts and lives of men. Everyone who heard His words had the opportunity to receive it and respond, but only a few received His Word and believed in Him. Jesus warned us of this in **Matthew 7:13-14** saying, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” **John 3:16-19** reminds us that Jesus made a way for all to be saved, but few respond in faith. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.” God desires for all to be saved, but we must recognize we each have a response to give. If we believe in Jesus and receive Him as Lord, we will be saved, but if we reject and deny Him, then we will remain lost in our sins.

I begin with this introduction because of what transpires in John 6. Today we are talking about the “conviction” of a disciple. The word may sound strange because when many hear “conviction” they think of “guilt, condemnation, or sentencing” in court, but this is not the use I’m referring to. A biblical conviction is “a belief, confidence, and certainty” that one holds no matter the cost. A person may have many ideas or opinions, but we must be careful in determining our convictions. Convictions determine how we live and what we are living for. They impact and shape every aspect of our lives. As a disciple of Jesus, we must have very clear convictions of Who Jesus is, knowing that these convictions will shape every aspect of life. And, if how we live is inconsistent with what we claim, then we are showing that our convictions are not true. In John 6 many were

following Jesus for various reasons. Many of them were even called “disciples,” but as the text unfolds, we see that their convictions of Christ were not true. They had other motives and reasons for following Jesus, and in the end, their selfish motives were revealed.

We will read our text in a moment, but before we do I think it is helpful to say a few things. First, I ask for your grace as I preach this message today. There is so much depth in this passage that we are taking the 30,000 feet, big picture view of the passage. The last time I preached through this chapter of Scripture it took me five weeks to do so. We don’t have that length of time in our study, and I am fairly confident that you do not want to hear five sermons in one sitting today. 😊 With the big picture view, we will not get into every nuance of every phrase of every verse, but we will see the heart of what is taking place in the climactic moment that Jesus is leading us to. Second, it is helpful to have some background to the text.

John 6 begins with Jesus feeding the 5,000. There was a large group of people gathered to hear Him teach, and they were becoming hungry. Andrew found a boy who had five loaves and two fish, so Jesus took this meager meal and multiplied it until everyone was fed, with 12 baskets left over. The people were so amazed by the miracle that they immediately wanted to enthrone Jesus as king. Knowing that this was not His purpose for coming to earth, Jesus broke up the crowd and sent His disciples across the sea to the other side. The very next morning the people got up and were immediately looking for Jesus again. Instead of commending the crowd, Jesus confronted them. He said in **John 6:26b**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.” Jesus is saying, “Your thoughts are consumed with your physical needs, and all you care about is getting more food.” They had heard Jesus teach, seen His miracles, and had been fed a miraculous meal, but they missed the whole point of it all. They were more focused on the fact that they had gotten a free meal than they were on the fact that Jesus was the One who came to give eternal life. Jesus tells them, “I have come so that you might believe in Me, the One who has been sent by God,” but they are so blind to the truth that they ask Jesus, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?” **John 6:30b**. It is difficult for us to grasp the arrogance and hard-heartedness of these people. They’re asking Jesus for a sign when He has just fed over 5,000 with some bread and a few fish, and there are 12 baskets left over. This is the same One who has turned the water into wine, healed all kinds of diseases, raised the dead back to life, and fed the multitude, yet they’re still demanding a sign. They even dare to suggest to Jesus what He should do to prove Himself. They say in **verse 31**, “Well, Moses gave our fathers manna in the wilderness, so what are You going to give us?” They are looking for a free handout when the fact is that they completely missed the truth. Their forefathers had indeed wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and there was a miraculous provision of manna every single morning. However, the manna, or bread, did not come from Moses but from God Himself. God gave manna to sustain the people, but in this moment, Jesus reminds them that just as God the Father gave their ancestors manna from heaven, now He was sending the true bread of life that would not only sustain them but would also bring salvation to their souls. They responded in typical fashion for a crowd. With enthusiasm, excitement, and emotion, they said, “Lord, always give us this bread.” The truth, however, is that they didn’t know what they were really saying. They had not fully come to grips with Who Jesus was, what He was saying, what He was requiring, and how it would change their lives. It is here that we pick up the passage of Scripture and see the conviction of a true disciple.

Show Text

I imagine that some parts of these verses are a bit surprising and confusing. When we read these words about Jesus requiring the people to eat His flesh and drink His blood, it is a bit startling. If you are confused, please know that you are in good company. There are many confused, for example the Catholic church, that have built an entire wave of theology on the words that Jesus said in this one Scripture. If you are offended already, I ask you to hold on. There are some words that Jesus uses here as an analogy that have a deeper meaning. For example, just last week a pastor came into my office, where I shared a ministry idea and said, “I want you to **chew** on this over the weekend, and we will talk about it next week.” I wasn’t literally asking him to eat the idea, but asking him to think on it, pray about it, and come ready to discuss it. So hang on with me as we go through the Scripture. I know the text today is lengthy, but I believe it is important because it paints the bigger picture of what is taking place. It helps us to better understand what Jesus is saying and requiring, and it demonstrates how true disciples will respond with conviction concerning Christ. With that in mind, I want us to make three observations about the conviction of a disciple:

I. The Disciple’s Convictions Are Formed by Who Jesus Is (vs. 41-53)

The first point of this message is focused entirely on what Jesus reveals about Himself. Jesus says emphatically, “I am the bread of life.” Without understanding the context of this we would miss what He’s referring to. Remember, the Jewish people have asked Him specifically about the bread that was fed to their ancestors in the wilderness. As they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, every morning God blessed them with bread that came from heaven. This bread was given to sustain their physical body, and because that is the illustration they have presented, Jesus now picks it up and gives us much greater meaning, “I am the bread of life.” Jesus is clearly indicating that physical bread will sustain your physical life, but the bread that He gives provides eternal life. To further reveal this truth, He explains three primary things:

A. Where Jesus Came From

The Scripture says emphatically that He came “down from heaven.” Five times in these verses Jesus makes it clear that He came down from heaven. This fact not only shows us His origin, but it is also showing us with authority Who He is. There are many people, even among “Christians,” who struggle with this fact. In 2022, a survey was compiled to examine the beliefs of American evangelicals. In doing so they discovered that 73% of those surveyed believe that Jesus is a created being and that His life began when He was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary. That is not true. Jesus is the second person of the Godhead, God the Son, Who was, Who is, and Who always will be. At the very beginning of creation, God said in **Genesis 1:26a**, “Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness.” In other words, Jesus was with the Father at the beginning of creation. Jesus did not suddenly appear on the scene when He was conceived in Mary’s womb and then born in the city of Bethlehem. He was in heaven with His Father, before He willingly came from heaven to earth. **Philippians 2:5-7** says it well, “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.” The Bible makes it clear, before the incarnation when Jesus came to earth, He was in heaven

with the Father, and after His resurrection, He returned to the Father, where today He makes intercession for us and is preparing a place for all who believe.

B. Why Jesus Came

He tells us plainly in **verse 38** why He came: Not to do His own will, but the will of the Father who sent Him. Jesus makes it clear that He didn't come to this earth to accomplish His own will or wants, but the will of His Father. Jesus gives a simple explanation in Luke 19. Zaccheus, a tax collector, has been watching Jesus from a tree. When Jesus passes his way, He shows Zaccheus that He cares for him and wants him to be a changed, new man. Zaccheus was under such conviction of sins that he vowed to the Lord that he would give half of his money to the poor and make right any injustice he had done. Jesus went to his house and enjoyed a meal, while the religious leaders of the day were grumbling and complaining about Jesus, calling Him the friend of a sinner. Then Jesus explained why He came from heaven to earth. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost," **Luke 19:10**. In a similar passage in Matthew 9 when Jesus called Levi to follow, the self-righteous crowd criticized Jesus, but He explained in **Matthew 9:12b**, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick." This is why Jesus came, but it is clear that the self-righteous crowd missed what Jesus was saying. They didn't see their own personal need for Jesus. They were impressed by Him and intrigued with Him, but they were not moved to the point of repentance because they thought they were fine. Their eyes were blinded by the enemy through their self-righteousness. Little did they know that their religious system was keeping them bound and blind to their greatest need. Jesus alludes to this in **John 10:9-11** when He describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, saying, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Do you hear why He came? He came to give eternal and abundant life by laying down His life for us.

C. What Jesus Came to Do

Jesus now reminds the crowd of the insufficiency of the manna that they had received. The manna of old certainly provided for their physical nourishment, but it was always a temporary provision. ****ILL:** Being from the South, I assure you that I love bread, and rarely consider it a meal if I have not enjoyed some form of it. However, all physical bread is temporary. If you were to take a loaf of bread, open it, sit it out, and leave it on the counter, over time it would mold and ruin. Why? Because it is temporary. If you ate a whole loaf of bread for lunch it would fill your belly, but eventually, you would be hungry again. Why? Because it is only capable of bringing temporary nourishment to life. What God was sending through Jesus Christ was a permanent, eternal, soul-saving, soul-nourishing bread that was only needed once. What is this bread? Jesus says in **verse 51b**, "The bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." Jesus is showing them and us that He came to give His life for us. The only way mankind can experience eternal life is through Jesus Christ. Jesus said it this way in **John 6:27**, "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." God the Father has permanently settled the matter that the only way to eternal life, forgiveness of sins, and relationship with Him, is through Jesus. Just as God gave manna in the wilderness to

sustain them physically, now in Christ He has given His Son to save us spiritually. This is only possible because while we were guilty in our sins, Jesus willingly came and died in our place. **Romans 5:8-9** explains, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” **1 Peter 3:18** says it well, “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.”

II. The Disciple’s Convictions Are Furthered by What Jesus Said (vs. 54-65)

I can’t get past Jesus’ overwhelming statement, “If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever,” (verse 51). This is an open invitation to come to know Him, follow Him, and enjoy eternal life through Him. Throughout this passage, there are numerous clear statements of promise that Jesus is making to all who receive Him. In verse 44, those who believe in Him and receive **will be raised on the last day**. It is a powerful reminder for those in Christ that the grave is not the end. In verse 47 Jesus says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes has eternal life.**” The word “truly” is doubled for emphasis to let us know that the key to forgiveness of sin, relationship with God, and eternal life is found only in Jesus. In verse 56 he assures **those who receive Him will abide in Him and He in us**. Later in John 15, He gave the illustration of a vine and a branch to show their deep relationship and connection to one another. Then in verse 58 he says plainly that **those who eat this bread will live forever**. In other words, though our physical bodies will die, our souls will be with Him in heaven. Jesus later said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die,” **John 11:25b-26a**. These are all truths that He revealed through His Word.

We cannot become a follower of Jesus without faith in His Word. **Romans 10:17** says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” As we listen to His Word and respond by faith, our convictions are further shaped and formed in our lives. That doesn’t mean that we always understand every nuance of His promises, but we can receive them, trust them, and walk forward in faith. **2 Corinthians 1:20** says, “For as many as are the promises of God, in Him (Jesus) they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.” **2 Peter 1:2-4** says it well, “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” The promises of God are all available to us in Christ and these have been revealed through His Word.

For the disciples of Jesus, our convictions are strengthened as we respond in faith to the Word of God, but that is not the case for those who reject Him and His Word. Personally, I cannot read these words without sadness for the opportunity that was afforded to many, but the vast majority wasted the opportunity at hand. Make no mistake about it, God’s Word and our response to it is a dividing line, revealing the truth of where people stand. It shows who are the saved and who are the lost, who are the devoted followers, and who are the distant fans, who have eternal life, and those who are dead in their sins. No wonder God’s Word has been the primary target of Satan’s attacks from the very beginning. When he approached Eve in **Genesis 3:1b**, he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” It was not until Eve began

to question God's Word that she looked at the tree differently, and not long thereafter sin entered the world. As you read through the Old Testament and see how God instructed the Israelites, many sins were committed, but it all stemmed from their rejection and disobedience to His Word. It was this same temptation that Satan brought against Jesus in the wilderness on three different occasions questioning the deity of Christ and doubting the authority of God's Word. He still does the same in our own lives today. He attacks God's Word, "Has God said that? He didn't mean that. God doesn't want you to be happy or He wouldn't have given you that restriction. God is not looking out for you. Go do what you want and live according to your will." In our nature, the sad reality is that we love darkness rather than light, and because we want a God who will bend to our demands we begin to twist Scripture to excuse or condone our wants, or we just throw it out altogether as if it's untrue, which is exactly what the people did in John 6. There were two primary responses:

A. Many Reasoned Away What Jesus Said

As Jesus tells the crowd that He is the bread of life Who came to give eternal life, He invites them all to believe in Him. They respond, however, not through eyes of faith but through blinded eyes. **Verse 41** says they were "grumbling" about Him. This was the same word in the Septuagint that is used to describe the "murmuring" of the Israelites as they spoke against Moses. The people in Moses' day thought they were only complaining against Moses, but Moses was just God's messenger. God held them responsible for complaining against Himself. Similarly, Jesus is God in the flesh, so their statements of complaint are directly against God. They simply could not accept who Jesus is. To say that He was from heaven was to make Him out to be God, but to them this was blasphemous. They are looking at Him saying, "Wait a second, if You came from heaven, how is it that we know Your father and your mother? We have known them, your hometown, the house you grew up in, your family's carpentry business, etc." The leaders of the day identified Jesus as being from Nazareth in Galilee, but they did not ask about His birth in Bethlehem of Judea. Legally they recognized Him as the son of Joseph, though Joseph was not truly Jesus' father because He was born of a virgin. Yet, they never asked Him for explanation or clarification. They were so convinced that they were right, and He was wrong that they spoke against Him and would not receive Him for Who He is. They reasoned away Jesus' clear explanations of Who He is.

B. Many Ridiculed What Jesus Said

In **verses 53-58**, Jesus makes some strange statements about "eating His flesh" and "drinking His blood," but we cannot dismiss the statements from the context of everything else He has been saying. We must also be careful not to read these verses of Scripture and try to relate them to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper, Communion, had not yet been instituted, and Jesus made it clear that those who do not eat His flesh and drink His blood have no part with Him. If this is a reference to the Lord's Supper then what about the saints of old who believed, or the thief on the cross? If this is a reference to the Lord's Supper, it is very strange that the disciples never affirmed this idea and that there is no other reference to this in Scripture.

Throughout this passage, Jesus repeatedly used the analogy of "eating bread" to refer to the importance of believing in and receiving Him. Remember what He said previously in **verse 35**, "I am the bread of life; he who **comes** to Me will not hunger, and he who **believes** in Me will never thirst." He continues in **verses 47-50**, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **believes**

has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that **one may eat of it** and not die.” Just as a man will take in *physical* food and water for their *physical* life, *spiritually* we must take in the *spiritual* bread and water to give us eternal life. Jesus is using a figure of speech that was common among the Jews. For example, **Jeremiah 15:16** talks about “eating” the words of God. Similarly in **Ezekiel 3**, Ezekiel is instructed to “eat” a scroll, then go talk to the people. In other words, to eat and drink is a figure of speech implying that you are to receive it fully, receive it internally, and respond appropriately. So, how do we eat the body and drink the blood? How do we respond correctly to what Jesus has said? Remember, this is describing His vicarious sacrifice. This means that we receive what He has done for us by believing in Him and confessing Him as Lord. This appropriate response is found in **Romans 10:9-11, 13**, “That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed...For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ ”

Sadly, for most of the people in John 6, the crowd heard His words but denied Who He was and were disgusted by what He claimed. They thought Jesus was talking about His literal body and blood when He was simply describing the sacrifice He would give for them so that through faith in Him they could be saved. Like the people we saw last week, their hearts were dull to the things of God. They argued against Him and ridiculed Him and went on their way. This reality is heartbreaking, but we certainly understand it. **1 Corinthians 2:14** explains, “But a natural (fleshly) man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.” Those who harden their hearts and refuse to trust in Jesus simply cannot understand because their eyes are blinded to the truth of Who He is and their ears are deaf to the things He has said.

C. Many Rejected Their Opportunity for Salvation

The crowd has likely begun to disperse and go their own way. I imagine the Pharisees are further conspiring to figure out how to get rid of this blasphemous teacher. As the crowd breaks up, there’s still a large gathering of people who are considered to be “disciples” of Jesus. They have possibly been following Him from town to town and are now becoming common faces in the crowd. They haven’t left everything to follow Jesus, but they are on the verge of doing so. Jesus, though, knew the offense in their heart. When He asked about their “stumbling,” the word used was often translated “scandalized.” The words of Jesus seemed scandalous to them, and they were offended by what He had said. It was a difficult statement to grasp. How could He have come from heaven? Why would He give His life? Why would He make such a strong demand? Why should they believe in Him above Moses or any others for that matter? Jesus explains to them that the flesh profits nothing. The key to eternal life is the words that He had spoken. In other words, His Word is true and to experience eternal life we must receive it by faith. The reason this statement was so difficult for them is very clear, because some did not believe (**verse 64**). Knowing all things, Jesus knew exactly who did not believe and the very one who would betray Him. Remember, the Word of God and our response to it always reveals the truth of where we stand. It sifts the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats, the saved from the lost. And just like that, many of His disciples rejected their opportunity and

walked away from Him. They went back to their old life, old religion, and their old hopeless situation. Jesus is the way, but they chose not to follow Him. Jesus is the truth, but they refused to accept Him. Jesus is the life, but they rejected Him. Friend, if you are here and you're wrestling with your salvation, it is only available in Jesus. You can receive Him and live for Him, or you can reject Him, but there is no middle ground. If you are not willing to trust in Him as Lord and surrender your life to Him, no matter what you look like on the outside eventually the time will come when that reality will be exposed. That was true in Jesus' day, and it is still true today.

III. The Disciple's Convictions Are Fortified by Our Response to Jesus (vs. 66-69)

I can almost hear the disappointment in Jesus' voice. He knew the hearts of the many who had just turned their back, but I doubt it made the pain any less real. Now, He looks at the 12, those who have given up everything to follow Him, and asks a probing question, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Jesus knew that the statement was difficult to accept. He knew that He was requiring absolute faith and trust in Him, but He also knew that what He was saying was the truth. Would even the 12 abandon Him? In this moment Jesus is calling them to draw a line in the sand. He has brought them to a crossroads where they will continue to follow Him further, or they will follow the crowd. Peter now speaks up for the group, not acting on emotion or his desires, and not merely acting according to knowledge and logic. Peter responded with deep, genuine conviction about Who Jesus is. Like others in the crowd, he too has heard the words of Jesus and has now been tested as to his motive, but he emphatically proves that his convictions about Jesus are genuine, and this true conviction keeps him on the right path. This conviction is seen in two ways:

A. This Conviction Leads Us to Commit to Jesus

He looks at Jesus and says, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life." It's as if he's saying, "Lord, who else is greater than You? Who else left heaven to make a way for our salvation? Who else brought me out of darkness into light? Who else gave my life purpose and meaning? Who else can save my soul?" Peter is expressing that he could search the world over and never find another like Jesus because only He has the words of eternal life.

B. This Conviction Leads Us to Confess Jesus

Peter says it clearly, "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." Peter understood and believed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world, the One who had come to rescue and redeem mankind. He would later have a moment of great weakness and failure, but the pattern of his life indicates that this confession was true. He believed in Jesus and continued to follow Him, and even after Jesus ascended back into heaven Peter continued to live for Him even to the point that he died as a martyr while courageously proclaiming the name of Christ. That's the kind of conviction that God is looking for today. A conviction about Jesus where we look to Him and say, "Lord Jesus, to whom else would we go? You have words of eternal life, for You are the Holy One of God."

When preaching a message like this, I am often asked questions about those who have responded like the crowd instead of the disciples. Sadly, we live in a day where this is becoming common. Only God indeed knows the hearts of people. Only He knows if one is a wayward prodigal who is

soon to come home or simply a pagan who never truly knew Him. I think one of the most heartbreaking experiences as a pastor is when someone professes faith in Christ and gives the appearance of genuine faith, who in the end chooses to go their own way rather than the Lord's. **1 John 2:15-18** warns us about the ways of the world and valuing them over the Lord. It concludes in **verse 19** with this sobering statement, "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." It continues in **verses 23-25**, "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life."

Friend, the Lord is calling some today to believe in Him and receive Him as Lord. If you have never made that decision, it's time to trust in Him. Believe in Jesus today and receive Him as your Lord and Savior. For those who have already taken that step of faith, there are many today whose love for the Lord has grown cold. Many are turning back to old ways and others turning to new paths and pursuits. The Lord is asking, "Will you go away also?" I pray that each of us settle in our hearts that Jesus is Lord and that we devote ourselves fully to Him. May we respond with the same conviction as Simon Peter saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You (alone) are the Holy One of God."