It has been said that your faith ought to get you into trouble at times (as long as it’s for obeying God’s Word…).

* If everybody thinks you’re nuts, you might be.
* It’s okay if some people think you are.
* You’re probably in trouble if no one thinks you are.

The Lord has led me to continue on in John 6 today…

Jesus had a bit of a predicament going on… His mission was to show love & compassion to everyone. To reveal that the kingdom of was at hand.

To pay for the sin of the world by giving His body and shedding His own blood to die on a cross…

This message will address “why”, as we go on, but for now, the simplest answer is that…

God so loved the World, that He gave His one & only Son, Jesus (to be God incarnate or leave heave and put on a robe of flesh), and be the FINAL DEATH, the FULL & FINAL PAYMENT for mankind’s sin, and that whosoever believes in Jesus will not perish (that is spend eternity away from God in hell), but will have life everlasting with God, in a place that Revelation 22 calls the “New Heaven and the New Earth.”

This was God’s plan to end the elaborate Tabernacle system, that God had established about 3000 years earlier thru Moses…

Sacrificing animals to (“Kippur”) or atone for the previous years sin.

It served as a constant reminder for the Jews that because of their sin (disobedience to God’s Word) blood/death was the result. Just as God told Adam it would in Genesis 2.

Would that stop you from violating God’s Word?

Having to raise a spotless, perfect lamb every year and at passover take it to the tabernacle priest, place your hands on the lambs head while the priest cut the lambs throat and you would feel the life draining from it’s body?

Hebrews 9:11-14

Jesus would be the FINAL pure, innocent “lamb” to die.

Why is knowing/celebrating what Jesus did (Holy Communion), and now being able to see what Jesus did (Passion) so important?

Because the Holy Spirit uses those times of remembrance to draw & produce believers who are entirely sanctified, holy, cleansed and living in the power of the Spirit.

The selfless act of obedience that poured out the precious, pure & powerful blood of Jesus, brings some to seek the Holy Spirit to cleanse their consciences from acts of sin that continually lead to more sin & death.

We, the Church of the Nazarene, believe and teach that the believer can seek the Holy Spirit for a second work of grace to cleanses their heart from it’s natural born desire/tendency to sin against God and serve oneself above Him.

But how could Jesus get His true followers to understand these hard truths and turn away from their dead tradition/religion that they allowed to become corrupt and begin a love relationship with God and entirely devote themselves to Him without question or reservation?

It’s a process… a life long process called discipleship.

It was Jesus’ chief goal in life, His motive, His agenda… bring them to faith and make diciples who would make disciples.

We left off last week in John 6:51-59 with Jesus using figurative language to describe Himself, which sounded… a bit cannibalistic.

Which some might think wasn’t the wisest or most logical way to try and get more followers to disciple.

I love V57 – Jesus said to those following Him; “Just as the LIVING Father sent me and I LIVE because of the Father,

“So the one who FEEDS (Tro-go… chews/digests) on me and drinks my blood will live because of me.”

V60 says that the crowd began thinning out right about then...

What in the world was He doing?!! People were leaving!! His numbers were tanking!!

To figure it out we have to remember the problem that Jesus communicated last week in V26… a number of people were following Jesus because He was blessing them physically, with bread and fish.

They were not following Him by faith to accomplish the Father’s will of devoting their life to Christ and becoming disciples who would make disciples.

So Jesus uses Truth to prune, leaving those who would produce fruit.

John 15:5-6

John 6:61-62

Because Jesus is High Priest, and a Prophet… He prophesied what would happen just months from then in Acts 1:9-11.

Jesus, the Son of God, spoke nothing but TRUTH! Truth that was and is sometimes difficult to understand and accept… because sometimes it hadn’t happen yet.

Are there still some things that Jesus said that we are waiting on today?

But during this time of waiting… some believers have convinced themselves and others that one can believe in Jesus, have the guarantee of eternal life when they die, and yet follow Him on their own terms…

That telling others about Jesus, and serving according to the gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit in “the ministry of reconciling people to God and discipling them” isn’t really necessary...

That holy, Christ-like living is only for the “fanatic” “super-Christian”…

That’s nothing more than the 21st century version of V26… and people following Jesus for what He can give them…

And when you start talking about spiritual things that conflict with those false beliefs… people shut down & check out… and start checking their phones

Their eyes get heavy… or they head to the bathroom… (which I guess is good thing to do before their eyes get heavy)…

They think “it’s not logical”… Jesus did all the work, so I don’t have to! But then why did Jesus tell His followers to remain in Him and bear fruit?

Many people believe that if it does JIVE with what they think, it must not be true… that’s why Jesus called it faith.

Their was only one thing that truly impressed Jesus… strong FAITH.

I wonder how many in the crowd that day in John 6 thought that what Jesus was saying was the most idiotic and illogical thing anyone has ever said?

Eating His body… drinking His blood… ascending into heaven? Many apparently…

Now before we go lighting the torches and getting the pitchforks on these bad, faithless counterfeit followers…

Jesus says something very important in V63…

The truth is, we’ve all been there… and we will always be there to some degree…

The Bible is shrouded in darkness by our carnal minds...

Then suddenly! It’s Words become Spirit & Life to us!

You can read a passage of Scripture many times an it might have little impact, but then the next time you read it the Spirit re-speaks His way, His truth & His life into yours and it not only increases your knowledge, but transforms your life like never before.

1 Corinthians 2:11-13

Without God’s Holy Spirit we could never understand His Word…

Then Jesus stated a really hard truth in V64…

I can hear them now… saying who is He to judge us? He is God… He knows the mind of God and His judgements are fair because they are based on the reality of what’s in a person’s heart… 1 Samuel 16:7

The sad truth for many people calling themselves Christians today is that the devil has deceived them into thinking they can live ungodly, un-christlike, mediocre, fruitless lives that focus on serving themselves, and still rest on those words, “God knows my heart”…

Yes, He does…

That’s why Jesus told His followers in Matthew 6:24 that you can’t serve two masters… Simply stated, He tells His followers that “whatever is in the well of your heart is what comes up in the bucket” and then it is seen and heard in your life.

Hebrews 9:27 – And on that day of judgement the Holy Spirit will be called upon by the Father to testify as to who we lived for and who we served…

* Who were you trying to be like?
* Who did you talk like?
* Who’s kingdom we were you focused on building?

To those who are right with God (the true believers), that is a very positive and affirming statement that we will say amen to.

But to those who just said to themselves, again… “God knows my heart”… there is still hope!

But hope is not found in convincing yourself with words, hope is in the Father. V65

John 6:44 – There is hope because He has sent His Spirit to draw people to repent by turning away from their sin and turning to God to bear fruit.

And He never stops, no matter how many times you may have let Him down or how old you are.

When you face problems and struggles, that’s when His light often shines the brightest… beckoning you to finally get serious about living for Him.

V66

This is why Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, the road to heaven is narrow and few find it. Jesus is the only door…

Heaven isn’t the default location for people when they die…

Which promted Jesus to ask the original twelve an important question in V67, "You do not want to leave too, do you?"

Peter's response in V68a is the text for the message today...

"To whom shall we go?"

He acknowledged that Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. John 6:68b

Peter also confesses their faith in Him as the Christ, the Son of the living God - John 6:69

But His question is one that we would do well to ask ourselves not just today, but everyday.

There are many places people can and do turn, but they are not the right ones.

So let’s look briefly at;

I. “TO WHOM WE COULD GO”

The opinions of others.

* What does the majority believe?
* What do my friends believe?
* What’s the popular opinion?

But remember where Jesus said about the majority in Matt 7:13-14

If you followed the majority...

* In Noah's day, you would have perished in the flood.
* In Joshua's day, you would have perished in the wilderness.

MANY GO TO HUMAN WISDOM.

* Especially teachers/professors.
* Social media & TV talk shows.

God had something to say about “wise people” – 1 Corinthians 1:18-19

There are Scriptures that tell us you can be misled by a pastor, your conscience, and your FEELINGS!

II. “TO WHOM SHOULD WE GO?”

JESUS CHRIST, SON OF THE LIVING GOD!! The only Savior sent by God…

Do you know Him today, please don’t turn Him away…

Let His Spirit draw you to the Father and a faithful, Kingdom fruit bearing life today…

Decide to follow Jesus, refuse to turn back, and set yourself apart to be His life long disciple, who makes life long disciples?