

## John 6: 53-61 NASB

### “What Jesus said that made folks grumble”

<sup>52</sup> “Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, ‘How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?’ <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.’

<sup>59</sup> “These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, ‘This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?’ <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, ‘Does this cause you to stumble?’”

**Two English words rhyme in today’s text:**

- Many of Jesus’ disciples *grumbled* at what he said about himself.
- **He then asked them:**  
“Does this cause you to *stumble*?”

The Greek word translated grumble is one of those words similar to *hiss* or *buzz*.

*Buzz* resembles the sounds bees make.

The Greek word for grumble (*gongudzo*) likely sounded like an expression of disgust.

A corresponding Hebrew word would have been pronounced *lun*<sup>1</sup>.

The English language supplies several different words of disgust.

Church gatherings are not the places to review them.

**Before we talk about why folks grumbled, we must deal with last week’s unfinished business.**



**Recall *choosing* and *predestination*?**

**Jesus chose certain disciples.**

And Paul wrote of predestination.

**Did God pick out certain people to be saved and choose others to be damned?**

**When you first read some Scriptures, you get that feeling, don’t you?**

**Sometimes we hear people say certain terms and we never hear anything else they say.**

**Instead of getting hung up on words such as *choosing* and *predestination*, we examine the**

<sup>1</sup> These imitations of natural sound words are known as *onomatopoeia*.

sentences to see what they really say, we might reach different conclusions.

I don't think these Ephesians verses tell us that God chose certain ones to be saved before He created the world.

**He didn't pick specific people to be saved.**

It's not as if: "The people in Meriden, Marcus, and Cleghorn will be saved and those in Calumet, Paullina, and Primghar will be lost."

**The Lord didn't choose Jasmine, Matilda, and Mort, but exclude Harry, Sally, and Hortense.**

Two men were shipwrecked on a desert island. One was churchgoer and the other wasn't. The minute they arrived on the island, the non-churchgoer began screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!" The other man calmly propped himself against a palm tree, which drove the other guy crazy. "Don't you understand? We're going to die. What's wrong with you?"

"**You don't understand,**" said the churchgoer, "**I make one hundred thousand dollars a week**"

"What difference does that make?" asked the non-churchgoer. "We're on a desert island. We're going to die."

The churchgoer smiled,

"**You just don't get it. I make one hundred**



**thousand dollars a week, and I tithe. My minister and church treasurer will find me!"<sup>2</sup>**

**The Lord didn't choose only rich people or Americans.**

He didn't say that all redheads would be saved, and all other shades of hair, and baldheaded people, too, are out of here.

He chose that the people who are saved would be holy and blameless in Christ.

"He chose us in him (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

**God didn't choose to save special individuals.**

He chose that he would save holy, blameless, Christ-centered people.

- **Holy indicates that you set yourself apart to serve God.**
- **Blameless means that you live by Jesus' standards, not the world's.**

If we expect the Lord to accept us into heaven, we need to trust in Christ, but also live righteously and dedicate ourselves to God.

God chose that the people he saves must live righteously in Christ and for Christ.

**What about predestine?**

"**He predestined us to be adopted as his sons.**"  
**Predestine means to "mark out ahead of time."**

<sup>2</sup> THE WORLD'S GREATEST COLLECTION OF CHURCH JOKES

**“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined. . .”**

**What does *predestine* mean?**

**This *predestining* or *marking out ahead of time* wasn't that certain folks were picked to be saved and others rejected.**

God works His adoption process through Jesus. Perhaps you heard the old story about a middle-aged guy riding on a subway train reading his newspaper and a young man sits down beside him asks **“What time is it?”**

“I'm not going to tell you,” said the older guy.

**“Why can't you tell me?”** asked the young man.

“It's like this,” said the older guy. “If I tell you the time, then you'll strike up a conversation and then you will ask about my family. I'd have to tell you that I have a daughter about your age. You will want to see a picture of her.



Then, you'll want to meet her, then date her. Then you'll want to marry her. I don't want my daughter marrying a guy who can't afford a watch!”

**This father *predetermined* that his daughter wasn't going to marry a poor man.**

**God predetermined-predestined that he would save those who trust in Christ.**

Ephesians also alludes to the fact that God decided He would bring Christ into the world as a descendant

of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel).

**God predestined that part.**

If we keep reading, we'll see that the Lord always planned to save Gentiles, too.

**That's why Ephesians 1:13 & 14 NIV read:**

“And you (Gentiles) also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.”

**God saves people who believe Jesus is the Son of God, live righteously, and dedicate themselves to serving God and others.**

**Ephesians helps us understand at least part of what's happening in the world today.**

**We can't see into the future, but we know that God planned a final outcome.**

Ephesians 1:11 NIV explains God's part in events:

“In him (Christ) we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will . . .”

**An old time preacher said it this way:**

**“Well it's this way. The Lord done voted for my salvation. The devil done voted for**



Billy Sunday;  
I don't know if  
he was the one  
who said this.

my damnation. I done voted with the Lord, and so we got into the majority.”

**First**, God’s plan means that he chooses us to be saved through Christ; no other way.

**Second**, our part is: believe God’s truth about Jesus, trust him, and commit our lives to him, all the while praising him.

**Here’s God’s response:**

Having “believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

*Shining Light-*

“A coworker asked a recently baptized lady what it was like to be a Christian. She replied, ‘It’s like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all of the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. , then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.’”



We need to add something else to this metaphor.

God also puts his ownership mark on us *pumpkins*.

**He puts His Holy Spirit in our hearts-minds.**  
God’s Spirit in us guarantees that God will fully redeem us on Judgment Day.

The Lord’s teaching and His Spirit satisfy the inner longing we all share.

Here’s what I mean.

**You know this truth.**

**You feel a longing within you that you have difficulty satisfying.**

**You keep trying different things to fulfil it:**  
**Different philosophies and self-help methods;**

**Travel;**

**Reading;**

Maybe you watch soaps, the View, etc. hoping for help.

You might also try to run from it by staying busy.

**But the longing—the emptiness, doesn’t go away.**

**Some tell you, “You need religion.”**

Relief doesn’t come, however, just because you follow church laws or listen to a minister.

**Nothing like that satisfies.**

**In Romans 8, Paul wrote of the difference between following law and following the Holy Spirit in Christ.**

**Only God’s Spirit gives us peace within.**

**How do you involve the Spirit in your life?**

**You don't have to be well educated, smart, or attractive.**

**You must, of course, change your spiritual diet, receive God's good news in Christ, and be baptized for the remission of your sins.**

**This means that we stop living by the world's standards:** taking revenge, selfishness, gossip, envy, greed, anger, bitterness, worry, lust, etc.

**The world is killing itself with anger, greed, selfishness, power trips, and lust.**

**To find life, we start each day in the Scriptures to see Jesus' example and teachings.**

- **We daily ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in following and modeling Jesus.**
- **We use our gifts to serve Christ and others.**
  - Live to make God happy, not any person.

**We'll find new purpose, new meaning, and the hunger will diminish.**

**Christ is the bread of life—life everlasting.**

**When we feed on him, we grumble far less and feel far more fulfillment.**

**The people around us will likely seem nicer, too.**



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