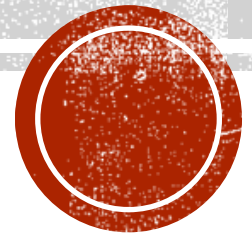


**Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?**

**John 6:67**



- After feeding a multitude by the Sea of Galilee, crowds follow Him to Capernaum (**John 6:22-24**).
- Jesus answers them noting they were only seeking Him for the food (whatever they materially needed).
- This leads to a strong conversation where Jesus declares total loyalty. He used the illustration of eating His body and drinking His blood.
- While not intended as literal (**John 6:61-64**), the people declared, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”



- After this we read, *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*  
**John 6:66**
- This prompted Jesus to ask the twelve, *Do you also want to go away?* **John 6:67**
- This morning, I would like to consider this question.
- The sad reality is that many, after obeying the gospel, in time go away and return to the world.
- Let us notice some reasons why some go away.



# Because of hard sayings

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- That was our context (**John 6:60**).
- A “hard saying” could be something difficult to understand (which shakes the faith of some), OR it could be something said that would be hard to do (it comes at a substantial cost).
- There are many who gladly obey the gospel and may even serve faithfully for awhile. BUT in time they hear something that is difficult – perhaps error exposed or immorality that directly impacts the hearer (or their family & friends).
- They are “offended”. And rather than change or investigate, **they walk away**.



# Because of hard sayings

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- **Galatians 4:16**, Paul had some strong things to say. He asks, “*Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?*”
- **Luke 18:18-23**, the rich, young ruler walked away because of a hard saying.
- What is involved in being a true disciple?  
**Matthew 28:19-20**  
**John 8:31** – abiding in His word (all of it).
- The true test of faithfulness is when our beliefs are tested.



# Because of worldliness

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- Worldliness is always a danger. We live in the world and it offers immediate and pleasant gratification. Often it competes directly with our faithfulness. At other times it competes indirectly.
- Sometimes, the temptation is sinful (e.g. Galatians 5:19-21, etc.)
- At other times it might simply be a matter of priorities (not wrong within itself, BUT if it competes with loyalty to God it becomes sinful).
- **THIS is the greater danger the Christian faces.**



# Because of worldliness

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- **Matthew 13:22**, the thorny soil – cares of this world choked out the word
- **Revelation 3:14ff** – Laodicea influenced by culture
- **Romans 8:6** – to be carnally minded is death
- **James 4:4** – friendship with the world
- **Matthew 6:24** – no one can serve 2 masters
- **1 John 2:15-17** – Do not love the world...
- **2 Timothy 4:10** – Demas
- If not checked, worldliness will gain a greater grip and cause us to walk away from Jesus



# Because of False Doctrine

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- The Bible often warns of false teachers and doctrine
- It was the continuous downfall of Israel – from families of patriarchs, to Mt. Sinai, to the judges and kings
- Warnings to heed:
- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** – the time will come...
- **2 Peter 3:17** – beware... lest you be led away
- **Acts 20:28-30** – wolves from your midst
- **2 Peter & Jude** – the theme – beware of false teachers





# Because of False Doctrine

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- Equally true today. Denominationalism teaches the tolerance of false doctrine (or it would not exist).
- Post-modern culture redefines tolerance as acceptance of all beliefs and morals as equally valid.
- False doctrine leads us away from Christ:
- **Galatians 1:6-9**, then **5:4**
- **2 Peter 2:1-3**, then **2:20-22**
- **Ephesians 5:11** – Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness
- **1 John 4:1** – test the spirits...
- This is the **ONLY** way to insulate yourself from false doctrine.



# Because of the way becomes hard

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- When living the life of a Christian meets with obstacles, challenges, sacrifices and persecutions, many walk away
- Discipleship is genuine commitment – **Luke 14:26-27, 33, 9:23-26**
- **Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20**
- **Matthew 13:20-21** – the “stony ground” has no root
- As you struggle with life – **John 16:33, Philippians 4:11-13**
- Difficulties can make you stronger or cause you to walk away.



# Because of neglect

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- One of the biggest causes of Christians leaving God is drifting.
- Drifting is gradual and often unnoticed, until its too late.

Think of the ship that loses its mooring

A flower bed left unattended – weeds pop up. The longer we delay, the more difficult to remove them.

- **Hebrews 2:1-3** – give the more earnest heed, lest we drift away
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** – forsaking the assembling
- Neglect is a real danger, even years later.



# Because our love grows cold

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- In time (because we drift), we have the tendency to let up. Our zeal begins to falter.
- **Revelation 2:4-5** – Ephesus. NOTE: Recall how we know about Ephesus – **Acts 19, Ephesians & 2 Timothy**, etc. Yet later...
- **Matthew 24:11-13** – the love of many will grow cold
- When our heart begins to grow weaker, the danger of walking away grows stronger.



# What happens if we go away?

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- You are in danger of losing your soul. And you WILL, unless you change direction.
- **2 Peter 2:21-22** – the latter end is worse than the beginning
- **Galatians 5:4** – you have fallen from grace
- You lose the support system that God put in place – your brethren.



# What is the answer?

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- **John 6:68**, *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Avoiding leaving the Lord begins with realization of its possibility AND what you are walking away from!

**John 14:6** – He is the ONLY way!

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** – examine yourself whether you are in the faith



# What is the answer?

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- We have to return to Him! Repent!
- Repent – in Greek (μετανοέω, metanoeō) literally means, “to perceive afterwards” (Vine’s). We have to CHANGE our minds!
- **Luke 15:17-21** – the prodigal son “came to himself” and returned completely humbled.



# What is the answer?

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- Repentance means:
  - 1) We will face our hard sayings and challenges.
  - 2) We will refocus our pursuits on heavenly things –  
**Colossians 3:1-2**
  - 3) We will recommit to following the truth
  - 4) We will “return to shore” – **Hebrews 6:19** –  
anchored in heaven
  - 5) We will rekindle the fire – **Revelation 3:19,**  
**Titus 2:14**





# What is the answer?

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- BUT, the best answer is to avoid putting yourself in the position where you are tempted to leave Him.  
**1 Corinthians 9:27** – I discipline my body...  
**1 Peter 1:15-16, Hebrews 12:14** – pursue holiness



# Concluding thoughts

Do You Also Want to Go  
Away?

John 6:67

- The sad reality – in addition to the worldly who never knew Him, far too many come to Jesus without understanding the true commitment involved.
- And Satan is waiting with a number of “devices”  
**2 Corinthians 2:11**– IF we let him use them.
- The consequences will be devastating!



**Are you in danger of  
going away also?**

**John 6:67**



**Let us pray!**

