

Words of Eternal Life

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Middletown
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Scripture

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” **Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him. (John 6:60-71 NRSV)

Main Idea: We will never have the answers to all our questions. Sometimes we don't understand his teaching. Other times they are just too hard to swallow. But we will trust Jesus anyway because we have found something wonderful in him.

Discussion Questions

1. Where do you find yourself in the story? Are you with the disciples who turn away and leave, or with Peter who confesses that Jesus has the words of eternal life? Or, are you with the crowd that follows Jesus across the lake and becomes disenchanted and starts grumbling?
2. What do you think happened that turned the crowds against Jesus? What did he do or say that caused many of them to stop following him? What are some of his teachings that you find challenging and hard to understand?
3. What do you think that moment must have been like for Jesus? What might he have been feeling when he was rejected after he revealed himself? What can we learn from Jesus about dealing with rejection?
4. Peter's answer is full of trust. He abandons himself to Christ. If I put myself in Peter's place, how do I respond to Jesus' question in verse 67? What do the words of eternal life mean to you?

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Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit middletownchristian.org or contact Tracey Spann, tspann@middletownchristian.org to learn more.

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