# "His Way is Hard—So He Calls us to Truth"Rediscovering Jesus in the Gospel of John

# Pastor John Mulligan

# John 6:60-71

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"  (61)  But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? (62)  Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? (63)  It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (64) But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

(65)  And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." (66)  After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.  (67)  So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" (68)  Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, (69)  and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."  (70)  Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." (71)  He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

**1) A view from the heart of a deceived disciple (Verses 60-64)**

* **Won't listen-**Verse 60-When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"
* **Easily and often offended-**Verse 61- But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?
* **Just won't believe and turn away for good-** Verse 64, 66- But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)  (66)  After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

**Matthew 7:20-23 ESV**
Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (21)  "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22)  On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' (23)  And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**2) A view from the heart of a true disciple (verses 65-69)**

* **Come to Jesus when the Father calls-**Verse 65- And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."
* **Walks with Jesus even when it's hard-** Verse 66- After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
* **Grow in the conviction that Jesus and His Word are life-** Verse 67-69- So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" (68)  Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,  (69)  and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
* **Endures to the end despite stumbles along the way-** Verse 70-71- Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." (71)  He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

**Read ahead as we continue our study through the Gospel of John 7:1-36 next week**