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A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **John 6:53**

*Then Jesus said unto them,  
Verily, verily, I say unto you,  
Except you eat the **flesh** of the  
Son of man, and drink his  
**blood**, you have no life in you.*

- **6:54** *Whoso eats my flesh, and  
drinks my blood, has eternal  
life; and I will raise him up  
at the last day.*

- **John 6:60**

***Many therefore of his  
disciples, when they  
had heard this, said,  
This is an  
hard saying;  
who can hear it?***

- “hard”
- The Greek word is skleros (<G4642>),
  - Means not hard to understand;
  - But hard to accept

- The disciples knew that Jesus had been claiming to be the ***Son of God,***
- And that no one could face eternity without **submitting to him.**

- Here we find the truth of the ages.
- It is not the intellectual difficulty which keeps men from becoming Christians;
- It is Christ's moral demands.

- And why does God demand morality?

## Habakkuk 1:13

*Your eyes are too pure  
to gaze upon evil;  
and you cannot  
tolerate wickedness.*

- **The real demands**  
of Christianity:
  - Absolute  
**surrender to Christ,**
  - Acceptance of him  
**as the final authority;**
  - **A moral standard**  
of the highest level.

- It was difficult for the disciples to accept absolute truth with all its implications.

- To this day many a man refuses Christ, not because he challenges the intellect,

- But because he challenges his life.

- **John 6:61**

***But Jesus, knowing within himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them,***

***"Does this offend you?"***

**6:62 *What if you saw the Son of Man going up to the place where he was before?***

- What the text really says is,  
**"Jesus said,**

**'If you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before  
*then you would know that*  
it is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh is of no avail.'**

- His speaking of ascending up to heaven asserts that

**he was there before.**

- After My Ascension,  
when I shall no longer  
possess a natural body,
- You will understand  
that My words about
  - Eating My flesh
  - Drinking My blood,
- Which now offends you,
- Are to be spiritually interpreted.'<sup>13</sup>

- What imparts the power of everlasting life to those who feed upon My flesh and drink my blood
- Is not the flesh and blood as such,
  - But the Spirit which gives it life.

- The flesh without the Spirit **profits nothing:**

- **James 2:26**

The body without the spirit **is dead.**

- The flesh with the Spirit **gives life.**  
**(John 6:63)**

- What is material can satisfy only for the time.
- The material food that Jesus had miraculously provided for the hungry multitudes satisfied them for the moment.
- But on the following morning those same people were again surrounding Him seeking further nourishment.

- Jesus goes on:  
**"My words are spirit and life."**
- He alone can tell us  
**what life is.**
- Life takes its value  
from its **purpose** and **goals.**
- Christ alone  
can give us  
**true purpose in life.**

- Jesus was well aware that some would not only reject his offer but would reject it with hostility.

# John 6:66-71

*After this  
many of  
his disciples  
turned back  
and would not walk  
with him any more.*

- **John 6:66-71**

**Jesus said to the Twelve:**

***"Surely you too  
do not want to go away?"***

- ***Simon Peter answered him:***

***"Lord, to whom are we to go?"***

- ***You have the  
words of eternal life;***

- ***and we have believed and we  
have come to know that you  
are the Holy One of God."***

- **John 6:66-71**

**Jesus answered them:**

***"Did I not choose you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"***

- ***He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for he was going to betray him-- and he was one of the Twelve.***

- Here is a passage full of tragedy,

- It is the beginning  
of the end.

- There was a time when large numbers followed Jesus.
- When he was in Jerusalem at the Passover many saw his miracles and believed in his name (**John 2:23**).

- But the **tone** of things had changed.
- It is events like these which **reveal men's hearts.**

- Let us pause for a minute  
to discuss some issues:
- **# 1** Transubstantiation  
&
- **# 2** Lord's Supper

- **# 1 Transubstantiation**

- Roman Catholic Church bases its view of **transubstantiation**

- The view that the communion elements actually become the **body** and **blood** of Christ.

- The main problem with the Catholic view of transubstantiation is that it takes literally words that were obviously meant as symbolic.

- There are numerous examples:

- **In Matthew 26:26**

Jesus said:

“***This is My body.***”

- A reference  
to the  
***bread***

at the Last Supper.

- **In John 10:9**

**“*I am the door.*”**

- **In John 15:1,**

**“*I am the true vine.*”**

- Nobody takes those statements  
**literally.**

- Jesus clearly meant them  
**symbolically.**

- There are other reasons for rejecting the view that the communion elements actually become the body and blood of Jesus.
- Jesus' words in John 6 were spoken at least one year before He instituted the Lord's Supper
- And have nothing to do with that ordinance.

- True, there are parallels that we can draw between the Lord's Supper and Jesus' words here.
  - But John 6 is not about the Lord's Supper;
  - The Lord's Supper is about what is described in John 6.

- Why

would Jesus use such graphic language as eating His flesh and drinking His blood to describe believing in Him?

- He was making a comparison that they were familiar with.
- By shocking them with graphic language and applying it to Himself He was seeking to wake them up.

- So that true seekers for eternal life would be jarred into realizing their main need was not for a Messiah to give them literal bread, but for one to give them the bread of eternal life.
- They needed Jesus as their Passover Lamb.

- **The Bible is clear**
  - (**Hebrews 9:22**),  
“***Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***”
- Think of how bloody the Jewish religion was, with the slaughter of **bulls** and **goats** and **rams**?
  - What is more precious **than blood?**

- This is not just a matter of how to have a happier life.
  - It's a matter of eternal life or eternal death.
  - In John 6:49-51,  
Jesus draws  
a contrast:
    - Between  
Earthly Manna  
and  
Heavenly Manna.

- Then Jesus contrasts his flesh and blood with the sacrificial lamb that delivered the slaves in Egypt.
- So Jesus is saying his flesh and blood delivers slaves from sin to eternal life.

## # 2 The Lord's Supper

There are  
three reasons  
that John 6  
does not refer  
to communion.

- First,  
communion had  
not yet  
been instituted.
- Jesus instituted it  
on the night  
He was betrayed.
- About a year later.

- Second,  
Jesus was speaking  
here  
to unbelievers
- And communion  
is for believers.

- Third,  
the eating here is  
unto salvation  
or eternal life,
  - Eating  
the Lord's Supper  
is for those  
already saved.

- Let us note  
there were

three

different attitudes

toward Jesus.

- # 1

There was defection.

- Some turned back  
and walked  
with him no more.
- Some drifted away  
for various reasons.

- Some saw quite clearly where Jesus was heading.
- It was not possible to challenge the authorities as he was doing and get away with it.
  - He was heading for disaster and they were getting out in time.

- Those who drifted away would have stuck by Jesus so long as his career was on the upward swing.

- But at the first shadow of the Cross they deserted him.

- Some rejected the challenge of Jesus.
- Their point of view was that they had come to Jesus to get something from him;
- When it came to suffering for him they quit.

- If we come to him solely to get and never to give we will certainly turn back.

- The man who would follow Jesus must remember that in following him there is always a Cross.

(# 2)

## There was deterioration.

- It is in Judas that we see this.
  - Judas, who might have become the hero, became the villain;
  - He who might have become a saint became a name of shame.

- **The years can be cruel.**

- Possibly, Judas dreamed of his **own goals** in Christ kingdom.

- But time eroded his **enthusiasms**, his **dreams** and his **loyalty**.

## (# 3) There was determination.

- John gives another version of Peter's great confession.  
(**Matthew 16:16**)
- Peter had analyzed the evidence
- To him there was just no one else to go to.
- Jesus alone had the words of life.

- Like many in the crowd there were many things

Peter did not understand.

- He was just as bewildered and puzzled as anyone else.

- But he knew that Christ was more than

another false prophet.

- He had studied the prophecies, observed the miracles,
- His heart and mind would not allow him to do anything else.

- Peter like us is a beggar seeking something from Jesus.
- But, it was not material bread it was the Bread of Life.  
(John 6:48)

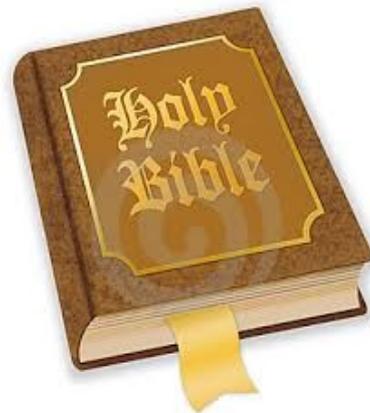
- In the end we must admit that we are all beggars:
  - Beggars who are blind
    - But given new sight.
  - Beggars who are hopeless
    - But given a new future.
    - Beggars who are lost,
      - But given new life.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



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