

14. John 6:60-70

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Getting started

Who have you known that has fallen away from the Christian faith? Why did it happen? How did you react?

Observation and interpretation

1. Who is doing the grumbling here (verses 60-61)?
2. Where in the Bible does the mention of 'grumbling' take you?
3. What do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 62?

There are two main options that have been suggested for understanding the verse. First, Jesus is saying that there will be further offence when he is raised up on the cross. Second, Jesus is suggesting that there will be surprise and vindication of his words when Jesus returns to the Father via the cross and therefore everything he said is true. What do you think?

4. What is Jesus' point in verse 63?
5. Why don't the twelve leave?
6. What is your response to Jesus' teaching in verses 64-65 and verse 70? How do these verses help in understanding the story of Jesus?

Implications

See John 8:32: the true disciple abides in Jesus' word. This is immediately tested when Jesus speaks to those who had believed in him and suggests that they are sinful. Many find it hard to 'abide' in this word of Jesus.

What 'hard teachings' are there in the Christian faith that you find difficult to accept? How do you deal with this?

How do/will you respond to people who come up to you and express doubts about some Christian truths? Perhaps two members of the group could role play a conversation along these lines. (If you have time perhaps you could get two pairs to show a good way and a poor way).