



WEEK SEVEN HANDOUT – The Son’s Claims Received and Rejected BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *“You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” – John 6:69 ESV*

- **A hard saying**

- Jesus said some strange and difficult-to-comprehend things

“This is the bread that came down from heaven...” – 6:58

“Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever...” – 6:58

- He talked about eating His flesh and drinking His blood
- He claimed that doing so would result in eternal life

- And His bizarre comments left His audience stunned and confused

*“This is **a hard saying**; who can listen to it?” – 6:60*

- They grumbled among themselves
- Because His words were difficult to understand
- They were disconcerting and confusing

*“Whoever **feeds on my flesh** and **drinks my blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” – 6:54*

*“For **my flesh is true food**, and **my blood is true drink**. Whoever **feeds on my flesh** and **drinks my blood** abides in me, and I in him.” – 6:55-56*

- Even His own disciples found all this talk unsettling
 - They murmured among themselves secretly
 - They discretely and discontentedly complained
 - Jesus describes them as offended
skandalizō – to lose trust, disapprove
 to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority
- **Scandalous words**
 - Jesus gives them a lesson on the spiritual life

*It is **the Spirit** who gives life; **the flesh** is no help at all.* – 6:63

- Jesus is conveying **spiritual** truth
- But they are stuck on a **physical** plane
- They suffer from the same problem as Nicodemus

John 3

Jesus: *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* – vs 6

Nicodemus: *“How can these things be?”* – vs 9

Jesus: *“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”* – vs 12

- Despite Jesus’ words, some did not believe
- Following is not necessarily a sign of belief
 - Jesus had plenty of followers
 - But few proved to be true believers
 - Most would be fair-weather followers
 - Including Judas
- Not what we were expecting to hear

*“This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**”* – 6:65

- Do you find this ***skandalizō***?
 - Is it a hard saying?
 - Does it cause you to murmur and complain?
 - It’s a spiritual truth that requires the Spirit’s help
 - It makes no earthly sense
 - And it negates fleshly involvement

- But what do we do with these verses?

*“Come to me, **all of you** who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” – Matthew 11:28 NLT*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16 ESV*

- Why did some hear the word and believe?
- Why did others hear and refuse to believe?
- It’s a matter of **the flesh** and **the Spirit**
- It’s the difference between **a work of God** and **a work of man**

*For to set **the mind on the flesh** is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For **the mind that is set on the flesh** is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. **Those who are in the flesh** cannot please God. – Romans 8:6-8 ESV*

*“That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” – John 3:6 ESV*

- A work of man vs a work of God

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again [from above]** he cannot see the kingdom of God.” – John 3:3 ESV*

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh is no help at all.**” – John 6:63 ESV*

*“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is **granted** him by the Father.” – John 6:65 ESV*

*“**All that the Father gives me** will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” – John 6:37 ESV*

- The flesh cannot please God

***None** is righteous, no, not one. – Romans 3:10 ESV*

*“...there is **none** seeking after God.” – Romans 3:11 BSB*

*“**All** have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is **no one** who does good, **not even one.**” – Romans 3:12 BSB*

*...**all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23 ESV*

...the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 ESV

- This is mankind's problem
- We are **not** good people deserving of God's grace
- We are sin-enslaved rebels deserving of His judgment
- But...
- But God... – Ephesians 2:1-10
 - In spite of our problem, God had a solution
 - We were dead, but He had a way to restore us to life
 - We were blind, but He had a way to restore our sight
 - We were enslaved, but He had a plan to set us free
 - We were children deserving of wrath, but He granted us mercy
 - And it was made possible **by His grace**
 - It was a gift, not a reward
 - Our salvation is the result of His work, not ours
- A gift of God
 - Salvation can't be bought
 - It can't be earned
 - It is the work of God from beginning to end
 - The only "work" we do is to believe in what Christ has done

"What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." – John 6:28-29 ESV

- **Too tough to take**

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. – John 6:66 ESV

- Jesus' claims proved too costly and controversial for some
- They abandoned ship
- But what about His disciples?

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." – John 6:68-69 ESV

- 11 of the 12 disciples believed
- But even their belief was a work in process
- Peter would later declare of Jesus:

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." – Matthew 16:16 ESV

But Jesus revealed the source of Peter's revelation:

*“...flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, **but my Father who is in heaven.**” – Matthew 16:17 ESV*

- Peter’s insight was the result of **divine inspiration**, not **human intuition** or **intelligence**
 - His spiritually blind eyes were opened by God
 - But not everyone received or believed Jesus
 - Because some remained spiritually blind
 - Their hearts remained hardened and unrepentant
 - They were operating in the flesh, not the Spirit
 - And “the flesh is no help at all” (John 6:63)
- **Conflicting reactions to Jesus’ claims death** – John 7:1-13
 - The Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Him
 - His own half-brothers doubted Him
 - The people had different views about Him

“He is a good man...” – vs 12

“No, he is leading the people astray.” – vs 12

- But most refused to even mention Him

The claims of Jesus...

...turned followers into deserters
and the religious leaders into enemies

...exposed the weakness of the flesh
and the hardened hearts of the people

...explained salvation as the gift of God
and the work of the Holy Spirit

- **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

Why do you think the unsaved still consider the claims of Jesus to be scandalous? What makes His words so difficult to receive and accept?

In what ways do we still believe that our salvation was up to us and why is harmful to our faith?

Go back and look at Ephesians 2:1-10. There’s no doubt that these are hard words to receive but how should they bring us comfort, hope, and assurance?