

You Will Not to Come

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: New Testament #28



Objective: To understand the nature of true faith and how to respond appropriately to Jesus' teaching.



"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. . . . You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

—John 5:24, 39-40

"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. . . . I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

—John 6:47-48, 51

After healing the lame man at the pool of Bethesda and making bold claims about Himself, Jesus told the religious leaders that they had enough evidence to recognize Him as the Son of God, the promised Messiah. He said that Moses, John the Baptist, God's voice from heaven, and scripture all supported His claims.

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 people, He preached one of the most difficult sermons to understand—the "Bread of Life discourse." He claimed His words are Spirit and life, that He is the true bread that came down from heaven, and that only those who "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood" can have eternal life. Jesus meant that those who seek life must accept all that He taught—appropriate it and make it part of who we are—and must believe in the meaning of His death on a cross. Many of His listeners could not fully understand what He meant. These words were so difficult to accept that many of His followers left Him. But those closest to Him, His 12 disciples, committed to remain with Him.

Jesus did not teach that we must understand everything He says before we obey Him. He taught that those who come to Him with a willingness to do what He says will know that His teaching comes from God.

1. True or false? The religious leaders were overjoyed to see a miracle of healing when Jesus told the man who had been lame for 38 years to take up his pallet and walk.
2. True or false? Jesus never claimed to be anyone special.
3. True or false? Jesus said that all authority had been handed over to Him by God.



4. True or false? Although most of the religious leaders opposed Jesus, many other people accepted Him as the Messiah, the Son of God.

5. True or false? The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew the Bible very well.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. For what primary reasons did the religious leaders really reject Jesus?

- They did not have enough evidence to believe in Him.
- They did not want to accept Him, so they ignored the evidence.
- He insulted them so often that they were too offended to believe.
- They were ignorant and could not understand what He said, even though they tried.

7. Whose approval did the religious leaders seek?

- God's approval
- Each other's approval
- Only the common people's approval
- No one's approval

8. Why did many people leave Jesus after He said to "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood"?

- His words were difficult to understand and even sounded offensive.
- His demands for obedience were too difficult to fulfill.
- He contradicted God's law, so everyone thought He was a false prophet.
- They wanted to go tell their friends the good news He has spoken.

9. What kind of faith does God ask us to have?

- To believe only when we see a miracle
- To believe whatever we are told by anyone
- To believe only when we understand Him
- To believe even when we do not understand Him

10. Where did Jesus say His teaching came from?

- a. His own opinions
- b. His years of education
- c. The counsel of His disciples
- d. God



Has God taught you anything that you do not understand but know you should obey? If so, what? How does God want you to respond to that teaching? How do you think He will respond if you obey Him?



Thank God for revealing Himself, His will, and His ways to us. Ask Him to give you a heart of obedience and also a mind for understanding His Word. Ask God for strength and wisdom to do all that He calls you to do.



Going Deeper

1. After listing many evidences these religious leaders had that proved the claims Jesus was making about Himself, He told them they did not come to Him because they willed not to come. (5: 39, 40) How should we apply this reality to our lives? _____

2. Why would Oswald Chambers, a great spiritual leader, say that the verses within parentheses above are the key to understanding the entire Bible? _____

3. How can we apply the reality of why it is that people like the Pharisees, who were Scripture experts, will not to come to Jesus? _____

4. Why is the feeding of the 5,000 hungry families the only miracle of Jesus recorded in each of the Gospels? _____

5. In what ways is this miracle “A Parable of the Missionary Vision of Jesus Christ”? _____

6. How can we apply the reality that Jesus strategically placed His disciples between Himself and His provision for the multitude (which is a symbol of the world) when He passed that provision through their hands into the hands of the hungry families? _____

What is the application to the question, “What is faith?” that is presented by the reality that, even though many disciples dropped out when Jesus gave His most difficult Bread of Life Discourse, the apostles like Peter did not drop out, even though they did not understand the discourse? _____
