

# A HEART LIKE JESUS STAYING TRUE IN TIMES OF DIFFULTY (JOHN 6:60-7:9)

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**OPEN:** In high school basketball tryouts, the coach would work us hard the first couple of weeks...we ran lots of “suicides,” half the guys would quit and then he would begin to develop the team.

- The Lord’s words were meant to “weed out” the genuine, sincere followers of Christ from those who were only interested in the fish n chips.
  - ✓ He was separating the men from the boys.
- When you leave Chapter 6 of John for Chapter 7 there is a 7-month gap.
  - ✓ Chapter 6 occurred around Passover (6:4) March/April. Chapter 7 is the Feast of Tabernacles (7:2) September/October.
  - ✓ John writes nothing about those months (the other Gospel writers did). His purpose was not to present an exhaustive chronological timeline of Christ’s ministry but portray Him as Messiah and Son of God.
  - ✓ In Chapter 6, Jesus spent 2 days with the multitude of 20,000 people but He spent 7 months teaching His 12 disciples how to serve God.
- ❖ Jesus, by example, highlights the importance of discipleship. Who are you discipling...teaching how to love, live and serve God? Your children, another man, lady, young person?

❖ It’s Father’s Day and I have two thoughts for you:

## 1) YOU GOTTA **HANG** TOUGH. (JOHN 6:60-70) (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- Jesus had just told them:
  - ✓ He was greater than Moses.
  - ✓ He claimed to have come from Heaven.

- ✓ He said God was His Father.
- ✓ He offered Himself as the Bread of Life.

**a) Some things are hard to swallow... (put into practice)**

Vs. 60 (NLT) – this is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?

Vs. 60 (NASB) – this is a difficult statement, who can listen to it?

- ✓ When it comes to believing, you cannot dismiss the supernatural...faith is required.

❖ It is impossible to come to God without faith.

**Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)** - And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

- Should you choose to believe Jesus is God’s Son...that He became the offering for our sin and that all who receive Him as Savior can be made right with God (2 Corinthians 5:21)...you should know He demands our loyalty and obedience as Lord.

**Luke 9:23 (NIV)** - Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

❖ When it comes to being a disciple of Christ, commitment is required ...following Christ isn’t for sissies (courage and self-denial required).

❖ Hang tough:

- a) Some things are hard to swallow. Do you believe?
- b) Some folks will quit and walk away.

- The word “disciple” means pupil, learner...is found 264 times in the N.T. It can refer to the 12 but as well the crowd that followed at a distance.

- ✓ They were impressed with Jesus (His miracles and teaching were amazing) but they had not put their faith and trust in Him as the Son of God.

- ✓ We are not to judge people's hearts and declare who has salvation and who does not...but surely not everyone talking about God is going to Heaven.
- ❖ Don't allow the lackadaisical attitude or lifestyle of some "Christians" to discourage you in your pursuit and obedience of Christ.
  - ✓ Keep your eyes on the Lord...grow in your faith, serve Him with passion and excellence.
  - ✓ There is casualty in war...rescue wounded soldiers but know this...some have gone AWOL.

**1 John 2:19 (AMP)** - They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not *really* of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out* [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us.

- ✓ In **John 6:66** we see the work of Satan the enemy.

## 1) HANG TOUGH.

- a) Some things are hard to understand.
- b) Some folks will quit and walk away.

### c) **Stick with the truth and press on. (vs. 67-69)**

- Peter makes a declaration on behalf of the group...we believe we know and we are sticking with you.
  - ✓ Peter was convinced...we see in this statement conviction.
  - ✓ Having spent 2 ½ years in the presence of the Lord, Peter is becoming a solid "rock" for Christ.
  - ✓ Sure...he had more growing to do, lessons to learn...he asks the Lord a question...**to whom shall we go for eternal life if not you?** If you don't depend upon Christ for eternal life, who will we depend on?

- ❖ When you settle this question the rest of life's questions can be answered in Heaven.
- ❖ Men hang tough...when the going gets tough the tough keep going.
  - We will deal with Judas later.

## 2) YOU GOTTA **HANDLE** LIFE'S DISAPPOINTMENTS. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Jesus spends 7 months with His disciples (Matthew, Mark and Luke record some of this) and now Jesus reappears in public.
  - ✓ **John 7:1-9**
- It was that time of the year for one of three most popular Jewish Feasts...Feast of Tabernacles/shelter.
  - ✓ Occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Tisri (September/October).
  - ✓ It was the happiest of the Jewish feasts...sort of like Thanksgiving for us.
  - ✓ It was a time for remembering the protection and blessings of God as the Israelites traveled from Egypt to the Promise Land.
  - ✓ Make shift shelter were built using light branches and leaves...families camped out for a week.
  - ✓ These shelters were built in the courtyard or on top of the flat roofs.
  - ✓ As for the timing...grapes and olives were being gathered.
  - ✓ Instructions for observing this feast are given in **Leviticus 23:33-44**.
  - ✓ People flocked to Jerusalem in great numbers...apparently, Jesus' family was going.

### a) **Jesus is opposed by the Religious leaders. (vs. 1)**

- They are plotting His death...there is a warrant out for his arrest.

- ✓ Jesus knew what was “cooking” and He kept a low profile.
  - ✓ It wasn’t that He was scared, just exercising discernment.
- ❖ One of the realizations in life is that not everyone is going to like us...but hopefully we won’t have folks out trying to kill us.

**b) Jesus is questioned by His half-brothers. (vs. 2-5)**

- They have the same mom but not the same dad.
  - Matthew provides their names: James, Joseph, Simon and Jude/Judas (Matthew 13:55).
  - They think it rather ridiculous for Jesus to be hanging out in the backwoods of Galilee when he could go to Jerusalem and “display his miracles.”
  - Hey bro, if you are a superstar you belong in Hollywood/Jerusalem.
  - John tells us (vs. 5) they didn’t believe in Him...this would occur after He rose from the dead.
  - James would become a leader in the Jerusalem church, James and Jude would write letters that are included in the back of our N.T.
- ❖ We all need support, people who believe in us...but when our own family question our calling, ability, character...it hurts.
- ❖ Don’t let the “nay sayers” keep you from doing what God has told you to do.

**c) Jesus operates on God’s time table. (vs. 6-9)**

- Jesus wasn’t going to be “high pressured” by His unbelieving brothers who presumed to tell Him what He ought to do.
  - ✓ The timing wasn’t right. Jesus lived moment by moment aware of God’s leading.

**Psalm 37:23 (NLT) - The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.**

- ✓ Understand what God wants you to do, don't be pressured by others.
- ✓ Make sure you are following God's plan for your life rather than following the demands of those who do not know God's plan for you.
- ✓ To know His will...stay in the Word, in close fellowship with God and in communication through prayer.
- ✓ Remain focused on His purpose for your life and you will make good decisions.
  - By the way...don't get too chummy with the world...light exposes dirt.

**CLOSE:** What have I reminded you of on this Father's Day?

**1) You gotta hang tough.**

- a) Some things are hard to grasp/practice (grow in your faith, strengthen your grip/commitment).
- b) Some folks will walk away and quit (keep your eyes on the Lord, not everyone talking about God is going to Heaven).
- c) Stick with the truth and press on (show some conviction).

**2) You gotta handle life's disappointments.**

- a) Not everyone is going to like you.
- b) Sometimes your family and friends will doubt you.
- c) Don't let others pressure you into doing something you shouldn't but step where and when God leads.

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