



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 4
The Cost of Following Jesus

Day 6

Scripture

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

— John 6:66-69

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for having the words of eternal life. Thank You for being the fountain of life. Help me to remember that even when it's hard, there's no place better than by Your side. Amen.

Reflection

In John chapter 6, Jesus preached a sermon that was hard for people to understand. Crowds had been following Him, eating up every word He said. But, after this sermon, many of them left Him. He went from the person who was popular to follow to the person many people abandoned. As the crowds were melting away, the conversation in the scripture above takes place.

Jesus asks His disciples if they are going to leave Him, too. Before, they were riding high. Their teacher was the most popular guy in the country, and they were his right hand men and closest friends. Being around Jesus increased their social status. There were miracles happening and people rejoicing. Now, there was a change. It might not be popular to follow Him. They might not understand what He's doing.

Peter speaks up and says, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” They had spent enough time with Jesus to know that there was no other place to go to find life. Even when things were hard, he knew that there was no one he would rather be with than Jesus.

If we really get a taste of Jesus—*really* get to know Him—we see that nothing else can satisfy us. We are built to be with Him, and there's nothing that can replace Him. When God leads you through a hard time or when you lose things you enjoyed because you're following Him, remember that there is no life outside of Him. There's nothing you're truly missing out on. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him. He has the words of eternal life. Who else does?

Questions

What have you lost because of your choice to follow Jesus? Friends? Popularity? Social standing?

What about Jesus helps you stick with Him in hard times?

When has there been a time in your life when you felt like the twelve disciples in the story above?