**ENCOUNTER JESUS #13: John 6:60-71 “THE WORDS OF LIFE”**

**Jesus will say or do something that offends you. PREPARE TO BE OFFENDED**

Hypersensitive culture people are to tempted cancel him/hard sayings/modify pallat.

**NOT NEW:** Happened in this STORY – MULTITUDE FOLLOWING

* 1. They wanted miracles offended about the deeper truth miracles pointed to
* 2. They were offended that Jesus referred to himself as greater than Moses
* 3. They offended teaching conflicted taboos – eating flesh/drinking blood

It wasn’t just hard to understand, it offended them. **recoiled, flinched, angered.**

**Offend worldview, opinions you hold, grp thnk, lifestyle loved ones chosen**

**HARD SAYINGS:** fear him who can cast body and soul into hell (et judgment is real), in the beginning God made them male and female (genders are binary), what God has joined together let no man separate (marriage man/woman, fidelity), repent (we are not good), I did not come to bring peace on earth but a sword (truth divides), I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven (Satan is real), if your hand causes you to sin cut it off (tolerance of sin is a lie)

* **PEOPLE GRUMBLE – turn away, ignore, modify,**

MP: Embracing the sting of truth, seeing God’s purpose in it for your spiritual growth and choosing to cling to that which is true is the pathway of the true disciple.  **HOW**

Things aren’t always easy, the majority isn’t always right, what Jesus says can be hard, we don’t always understand.

**1. REALIZE THE BATTLE IS NOT BETWEEN COMPETING IDEOLOGIES OR WHAT IS CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE BUT BETWEEN THE SPIRIT and FLESH /true false**

**YOU’RE OFFENDED AT THIS?** Ascension (RH OF POWER) / Crucifixion (> scandal)

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

* The World (underlying philosophy framework) will never underst JESUS/teach

1 Corinthians 2:13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14**The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

* Relying on flesh to understand useless **(unbelieving friends/lukewarm xians u used to, culture Q’s)**

When you resort to worldly ways of thinking Christ’s teachings seem irrelevant, out of date, tempted to reject or change.

**Jesus’ words bring life because they are true. When you change His words they no longer bring life.**

* **Jesus isn’t a philosopher he’s the savior**

**He saved you not only from your sin but a way of thinking that led to a lifestyle that was in conflict with God, that brought death.**

**2. THE REAL ISSUE IS ABOUT BELONGING TO GOD:** u don’t believe – Judas + others

takes Father’s drawing - person has to **COME**: **exercise will believe** (didn’t und/confl)

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else. C.S. Lewis

* Christianity is more than a way of thinking/worldview – **RELATIONSHIP GOD**
  + Marriage **(not arrangement relationship)** – CONTRACT – **TESTED?**
  + **Don’t completely understand or agree all the time….**
* **STOPPED FOLLOWING**: fact they turned away proved didn’t belong to God

John 8:32 If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Jesus didn’t soften truth, didn’t beg them to stay. **LET THE TRUTH SORT OUT HEARTS**

Jesus wasn’t focused on being popular he was focused on saving souls.

* Unbelieving crowd influencing believing CROWD - **cacophony of controversy growing – HIS FOLLOWING SHRUNK – not worried about popularity**

Unbelieving people who refuse to see things from a spiritual dimension are a toxic influence. Even in the church. **DENOMINATIONS BATTLEGROUND**

* THE THIEF – NOTHING MADE SENSE – IN SPITE VOICES BELIEVED

**3. ANCHOR YOURSELF TO THE TRUTH THAT YOU DO KNOW**

Whom, not where or what: Not an institution, organization, set rules **PERSON**

* 1. Words of eternal life come from Christ: No life apart from Christ
* 2. You are the Holy One of God: The Messiah, the redeemer, God incarnate,

1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

* The understanding came later – **REST** – WRESTLE IN THAT CONTEXT

**The truth hurts but you don’t change the truth because it hurts.**