

Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?

John 6:66-69

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Background: **Jn. 6:** The people come to Jesus and, just as quickly, they leave Jesus.

A. On the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee >5,000 heard him (v. 10: “*So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.*”), he performed a miracle by feeding them with five loaves and two fishes (vv. 9-11); they received food and “*were about to come and take Him by force and make Him king.*” (v. 15), so “*He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*”

B. They followed him over to Capernaum (v. 24) where he insisted his mission was spiritual and they were seeking Him for the wrong reasons:

Jn. 6:26-27: “*Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you,*”

C. Jesus then gave them some hard teaching:

(1) **V. 35:** “*I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*” A spiritual message! They were more interested in the loaves and fishes!

(2) **V. 54:** If one is willing to “*eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood*” he has “*life*”; eternal life.

(3) **V. 63:** They misunderstood the message (i.e., thought He was being literal): “*The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*”

D. **Vv. 66-69:** Like the vast majority today they rejected Jesus once they learned He was not going to be their “free lunch” ticket: “*From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’*”

2. **3** Peter’s question will form the basis of our sermon: “*Lord, to whom shall we go?*” Jesus alone answers our deepest needs.

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** For Forgiveness of Our Sins?

A. Jesus Christ alone has the power to forgive sin.

(1) **Jn. 1:29:** “*Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*”

(2) **Matt. 20:28:** “*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

(3) **Lk. 5:17-24:** Jesus proves His power to forgive sins (healed the paralytic and forgave his sins; **Lk. 5:22-24:** “*But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, ‘Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk?’ 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ — He said to the man who was paralyzed, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’*”).

(4) **Lk. 24:46-48:** Gives remission of sins (**Lk. 24:47:** “*repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*”).

(5) **1 Jn. 2:2:** “*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*”

(6) **1 Pet. 2:24:** “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.”

B. Sinners (Rom. 3:23) can go to Him and find forgiveness: **Jn. 6:35:** “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”; **Matt. 1:21:** “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (“Jehovah is salvation”)

(1) His sacrifice for our sins is only effective if our heart is in the right place: Acts 2:36-39, 40-41, 47; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:19-23

(2) If not this sacrifice and this Savior, to whom shall we go???

2. **5** To Resist Temptation and Sin

A. Jesus teaches us how to defeat Satan.

(1) **Matt. 4:1-11:** Satan fled in defeat

(a) **Vv. 1-4:** Lust of the flesh defeated by the love of God and His Word!

(b) **Vv. 5-7:** Pride of life defeated by the love of God and His Word!

(c) **Vv. 8-11:** Lust of eyes defeated by the love of God and His Word!

(2) Satan uses same avenues today! 1 Jn. 2:15-17

(3) We are not helpless victims! We can resist and win the victory! “Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever, He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.”

(a) God’s great promise (**1 Cor. 10:13:** “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”).

(b) God’s great power (**2 Pet. 2:9:** “then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”).

(4) If Jesus Christ is not the answer to Satan and temptation, to whom shall we go?

3. **6** For Comfort and Strength in the Trials of Life

A. Jesus is our strength when Satan buffets.

(1) God doesn’t always take away our pain, our sorrow, our grief; but through Him we can overcome anything! **2 Cor. 12:7-10** (strength in weakness)

(2) That’s worth celebrating! **Jas. 1:2-4:** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

B. God through Christ equips us to help each other.

(1) We serve the God of all comfort! (**2 Cor. 1:3-5:** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”).

(2) We need each other! (**Gal. 6:2:** “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”).

C. God through Christ can help us in all trials (**1 Pet. 5:7:** “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”; Rom. 5:8; **Heb. 2:14-18; 4:15-16**)

(1) If Christ cannot help us, to whom shall we go?

(2) Satan and the people of the “world” cannot help us; Satan is the originator of all suffering!

4. **7** For Authority in Religion

A. Jesus as Savior leads us through His Word.

- (1) His word is spiritual, it gives life: **Jn. 6:63**: *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*; **Jn. 6:68**: *“But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”*
- (2) His word alone has the power to make us right with God: **Rom. 1:16-17**: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”* (Vine: righteousness is ‘the character or quality of being right or just’; it was formerly spelled ‘rightwiseness,’; through Christ alone we can become right with God, consistent with His character of truthfulness, faithfulness, holiness, etc.).
- (3) *“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36).
 - (a) Christ = *cristos*, ‘annointed,’ (Messiah in Sept.); Jesus has God’s seal of approval (Rom. 1:4).
 - (b) Lord = *kurios*, from *kuros* meaning supremacy, supreme in authority, controller (Strong); “having power” (Vine).
 - (c) Hence: **Matt. 28:18**: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
 - (d) We must submit to his authority for salvation; unfortunately most want to tell Jesus what they are willing to do, or not do, in order to be saved. They’ve got things upside down!
- (4) We will be judged by His word: **Jn. 12:48**: *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* (1 Pet. 4:11)

B. Yet men violate His authority and change His Word.

- (1) Popes, councils, and denominations change it (**Matt. 23:9**: Call no man father: Pope means father, priests are called Father; **1 Tim. 3:2-5**: Bishop/elder/pastor must have an obedient family, but he indeed must be a “man”; ~10% of denominational “pastors” are women!).
 - ☛ *“If a man desires the position of a bishop”* (1 Tim. 3:2),
 - ☛ *“the husband of one wife”* (1 Tim. 3:2),
 - ☛ *“if a man is blameless”* (Titus 1:6),
- (2) Ironically a Catholic bishop has no wife or children (some denominational pastors and elders also); the very first supposed “Pope” (i.e., Peter) did not even meet the (man-made) qualifications to be a “Pope” (Peter had a “wife’s mother”; Matt. 8:14; also must have met qualifications set forth for a bishop/elder/pastor per 1 Pet. 5:2).
- (3) Denominations also have the plan of salvation wrong:***
 - (a) Catholic doctrine says: baptized→saved→believe (*confirmation*).
 - (b) Protestant denominationalism says: believe→saved→baptized (with many baptism is merely an option, not required).
 - (c) The Bible simply and clearly states: believe→baptized→saved (Mk. 16:16).

C. To whom shall we go to solve religious division, confusion, and anarchy?

- (1) To restore the authority of Christ reject the ‘authority’ of the Catholic Church and Protestant denominations.
- (2) Christ alone has the words of eternal life!

5. **8** For Acceptable Worship

- A. Jesus as Savior teaches true worship; recall what he taught the woman at the well? **Jn. 4:19-26** (worship in spirit and in truth; right attitude, right method; now under vicious attack by liberal-minded brethren as they reject what they deem as “tradition.”):
- (1) Lord’s supper every Sunday (**Acts 20:7**: “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.”).
 - (2) Collection every Sunday (**1 Cor. 16:2**: “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” NIV).
 - (3) Teaching/preaching God’s Word (**Acts 2:42**: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”).
 - (4) Prayer (Acts 2:42).
 - (5) Singing (**Col. 3:16**: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”).
- B. All worship not given by Christ and His word is false, it is vain (**Matt. 15:9**: “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”).
- (1) Prayer to Mary and other saints.
 - (2) Observance of holy days: Christmas, Easter, All Saints Day.
 - (3) Burning incense, instrumental music.
 - (4) Choir, solo, duet, quartet performances.
 - (5) Dancing, theatrical performances.
 - (6) Unintelligible prayer language, shouting, clapping, and other demonstrations producing confusion.
- C. If we cannot submit to Christ’s teaching, to whom shall we go?
- (1) Christ’s teaching pleases God!
 - (2) Man’s practices please man – love of tradition, pride, and entertainment.

6. **9** To Face Death

- A. Jesus as God has power over death (e.g., Carl Dillman; Heb. 9:27).
- (1) He proved it in His ministry (**Jn. 11:43-44**: “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’”).
 - (2) He had the power over His own death (**Jn. 10:17-18**: “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”).
 - (3) He has the power over all the dead (**Jn. 5:28-29**: “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”).
- B. Who like Jesus has power over death?
- (1) Who has power over his own death and can prove it?

- (2) Who can tell us the meaning of death and raise us from the dead?
- (3) Christ alone is the master of death and the master teacher!
- (4) To whom will you go when you face death?

7. **10** To Escape Hell and Have a Home in Heaven

- A. If we reject Him, if we don't believe in Him ("*belief*" in its most comprehensive sense) we die in sin and our destined to hell and will be forever lost! **Jn. 8:23-24:** "*And He said to them, 'You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.'*"
- B. If we believe Him, He leads us to heaven (Jn. 14:1-6; He is the exclusive way to heaven!).
- C. If we reject Christ, who leads us to heaven?
 - (1) Who knows the way? What proof can they give?
 - (2) To whom shall we go?

III. CONCLUSION: II

- 1. "*Lord, to whom shall we go?*"
- 2. Jesus alone answers our deepest needs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ For the forgiveness of our sins, ☛ To resist temptation and sin, ☛ For comfort and strength in the trials of life, ☛ For authority in religion, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ For acceptable worship, ☛ To face death, ☛ To escape hell and have a home in heaven.
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- 3. **Invitation:** ******To whom will you go?

Adapted from a sermon by Ron Halbrook.