

**Sermon Series:** *Conspiracies, Adversaries, & Unbelief*

**Trinity Core Value:** The Bible is God's Story given to transform you and be the authority in your life.

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## LOOKING BACK

Looking back at your Bible or notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention? Was there anything that challenged, encouraged, or confused you?

Take some time to review and share what the Lord showed you and your group members from this week's message

## LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

What specific teaching were Jesus' disciples having a difficult time accepting in John 6:53-58? **These disciples were having a difficult time accepting Jesus words to "eat of his flesh and drink of His blood."**

How are Jesus' words in John 6:63 reminiscent of His words in John 3:5? **Throughout the Gospel of John, we are seeing Jesus emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in giving eternal life.**

How would you explain Jesus' saying that His words are "...spirit and they are life?" **Throughout Jesus' ministry, His teachings are emphasizing the things of the spirit, not the physical, and therefore it's necessary to "think spiritually." The words Jesus speaks give life to those who hear, receive, and believe them.**

Why is the flesh of no help in spiritual things or in gaining eternal life (Philippians 3:3, Romans 8:8)?

**As Paul notes, religion, rules, and regulations cannot save us or give us eternal life. We need to be born of the Spirit and experience a spiritual rebirth so we can please God. Apart from this spiritual rebirth, we cannot please the Lord by our self-effort.**

What did Jesus know about those who were having a difficult time with his teaching (v. 64)? **Jesus knew that these temporarily followers would ultimately be the ones that betray Him.**

Why did the Twelve decide to stick with Jesus (v.68-69) How is this confession similar to the one Peter makes in Matthew 16:15-16? How did the Twelve's understanding of who Jesus is impact their decision to keep following Him? **The Twelve come to the knowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of God, and that He gives eternal life. The profession of Jesus as the Holy One is similar to Peter's confession in Matthew's gospel when He proclaims Jesus to rightly be the Son of God, the Christ. These statements were not just affirmed intellectually but resulted in the Twelve continuing to walk with Jesus.**

How do you see Hebrews 6:4-6 connect to Judas and his decision to betray Jesus after everything he saw and experienced while walking with Jesus?

Hebrews 6:4-6 is considered one of the most challenging and difficult passages of the New Testament. In this passage, the author warns of anyone who would be exposed to the person and work of Jesus, walk with Him for a short time, only to turn away. Sadly, Judas was exposed first hand to all the things Jesus said and did, and yet, walked away and ultimately betrayed Jesus.

## DISCUSS TOGETHER

Have you personally known anyone that walked with Jesus for a season only to stop doing so? What reason(s) or circumstances played a role in their decision? How have you responded to their decision and how have you sought to love and minister to them (if they are interested)? Sadly, we are living in a time when many are choosing to walk away from following Jesus for a variety of reasons. Some of you know firsthand how difficult and heartbreaking it is when a friend, child, or spouse decides to walk away from the Lord. Take some time to share your experiences and be sure to remember that this is not a time to chide or talk bad about those who have walked away, but to mourn their departure and pray that they would one day return.

What types of works of the flesh do people seek to do to earn or hold on to eternal life? Why is the gospel of Jesus so much better than this type of works-based mentality or system? In our passage this week, Jesus emphasizes that fleshly efforts or striving cannot produce or obtain eternal life, it's simply a work of the Spirit. Yet many are trying to earn their way to heaven through works of the flesh (religion, rules, regulations) rather than simply receiving the good news of the gospel. The gospel is so much better because the work has already been done on our behalf and there is nothing we need to do except respond by faith and receive Jesus' offer of salvation. It's better because it's not about what we do for Jesus, but what He's done for us.

Has there ever been a time when you had no other place to go but the very words of Jesus? Please take time to share with your group about those circumstances and how the Lord met you. This is a deeply personal question and my hope is you will be able to share experiences where you came to the end of yourself, or the end of the situation, and you had nowhere else to turn but the words of Jesus and found Him all-sufficient and satisfying. As the old hymn says:

“Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!  
I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that He is with me,  
Will be with me to the end.

Who in your life has modeled an “all in” mindset of discipleship? What lessons have you learned from their life and how they follow Jesus?

There is an old saying I heard when I first became a Christian: “discipleship is often caught, not just taught.” The point being, disciples learn to follow Christ by watching other disciples follow Jesus. Who are those people that have served as an example of “a long obedience in the same direction?” What lessons have you gleaned from their life on how to follow Jesus?

Was there a decisive moment or place in your life where you look back and say, “this is when I was all in,” with Jesus?

For many Christians, especially those who grow up in the church, there comes a time, place, or moment when they decide they are all in with Jesus. It could be a camp, retreat, baptism, memorial, or ordinary Sunday morning (like my case). These are great moments to recount and share with others, especially as we witness and celebrate the baptism of six brothers and sisters who are declaring they are “all in.”

What does “all in” look like to you in this season and chapter of your life? We are all at different places in our journey of following Jesus and being all in will look different based upon that season and circumstances of life.

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

- College and high school graduates
- Those you personally know who have turned away and have stopped following Jesus
- Our Congregational Meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Pray this meeting would be celebratory of the ways the Lord has worked through Trinity the past year and that it is a catalyst for moving us forward, together in the coming year

## **RESOURCES**

This weekend, Pastor Bill challenged and encouraged us to be “all in” when it comes to following Jesus and we want to help you in that journey. Please visit <https://www.trinityonline.org/im-new/next-steps/> to see where you are, where you’d like to be, and how we can help you get there.