

## Between the Rock and a Hard Saying

# When God Seems Confusing

1. Why were the Jews murmuring against Jesus (v. 41-43)? How did knowing who His parents were affect their faith? What are some examples of “bits of information” that tend to distract people from the claims of Christ today?
2. Jesus said that the Father draws people (v. 44); how does this become a “hard saying” for some?
3. What did Jesus say (v. 51-56) that would be considered another “hard saying”? What difficulties do you see people might have with this?
4. How would you explain that the Lord’s Supper is not the time when one receives Jesus?
5. Verse 66 describes how many of the disciples “walked with Him no more.” Why do you think they stopped following? Do you know of people who have stopped following? Why do/did they stop? What can we do to help them?
6. In verse 68, what was Peter’s answer on behalf of the twelve? Why was he willing to accept the hard sayings and stick with Jesus? What motivates you to hang in there when you cannot always understand?

<sup>41</sup>The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”  
<sup>42</sup>And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me [c] has everlasting life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

<sup>52</sup>The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?”

<sup>53</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>55</sup>For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. <sup>56</sup>He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

<sup>59</sup>These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

<sup>61</sup>When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. <sup>65</sup>And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

<sup>66</sup>From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. <sup>67</sup>Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

<sup>68</sup>But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>70</sup>Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” <sup>71</sup>He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

# Read: John 7:1-24

---

**Monday**

1-5 — Why didn't Jesus walk in Judea? Why do you think His brothers wanted Him to go to Judea? Why do you think they did not believe in Him? What draw does the desire for popularity have? What Scriptures would you use to combat this temptation?

**Tuesday**

6-9 — What was Jesus' reponse to His brothers' recommendation? What did going to Judea have to do with His "time"? Why could the world not hate His brothers? Why do we as believers experience the hatred of the world? Have you experienced a prejudice because of your faith?

**Wednesday**

10-13 — In what fashion did Jesus go to the feast? Why do you think He did that? How is Jesus controversial even today? What are some things you have heard people say about Jesus? Why did they not speak openly? When is a time you were silent about Jesus because you were fearful of what others might think?

**Thursday**

14-16 — What did Jesus do to reveal Himself? Why were the Jews marveling? Why would they assume that He had never studied? How do we discover the doctrine (teaching) of the Father? What are some of your plans concerning improving your understanding of the doctrine?

**Friday**

17-20 — What was different about Jesus' doctrine? The teachers of His day typically associated themselves with a particular person or group. Therefore, the glory went to teachers. In what ways can we be guilty of seeking our own glory? How did they not keep the Law? Why did they seek to kill Jesus?

**Saturday**

21-24 — What work was Jesus being judged for? Why did He bring up circumcision? What are some ways that we as believers appear hypocritical? What are some ways that we may judge from appearances rather than righteous judgment? What are some things we can do to avoid improper judgment?

---