

**JAMES RAFFERTY**  
**2024**  
**Q4**  
**L6**  
**Acceptance and Rejection**  
**Nov. 5**

Lesson 6: More Testimonies About Jesus (Tuesday)

November 2-8

**Tuesday**      *November 5*

## **Acceptance and Rejection**

Lesson 2 described the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6 but did not cover the final section of that story, which is studied here.

**Read John 6:51–71. What did Jesus say that people had trouble accepting?**

**51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

**52** The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?

**53** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

**54** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

**55** For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

**56** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

**57** As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

**58** This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

**59** These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

**60** Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

**61** When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

**62** What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

**63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

**64** But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

**65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

**66** From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

**67** Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

**68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

**69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**70** Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

**71** He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

WHAT WAS THE TEST FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST DAY?  
WHAT IS THE TEST FOR BELIEVERS IN OUR DAY?  
JESUS IS THE WORD

Having just been fed, miraculously, by Jesus, the people were ready to crown Jesus king (*John 6:1–15*). But in talking with them later at the Capernaum synagogue, He explains the spiritual meaning of the miracle, saying, “I am the bread of life,” (*John 6:35*). He expounds in more detail that this bread is His flesh, which He gives for the life of the world (*John 6:51*).

This saying opened the eyes of the multitude to the fact that Jesus would not be their earthly king. He did not fit the mold produced by earthly thinking. They refused conversion, which would transform the way they thought so that they could recognize and accept Jesus as the Messiah. Many of His disciples left Him at this point (*John 6:66*).

From a human sense, this must have been hard for Jesus. The approbation of the crowd is pleasing. Who doesn't want to be liked? But seeing many people draw back and question one's principles is naturally discouraging, as well. Seeing the multitude depart, Jesus asks his inner circle, the Twelve, if they want to leave, too.

This is when Peter makes his amazing confession, another witness as to both what Jesus has and who He is. “ ‘You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God’ ” (*John 6:68, 69, ESV*).

The disciples had been with Jesus for several years, traveling with Him, seeing His miracles, hearing His sermons. They knew from experience that there was no one comparable to Him. The conviction settled upon them that, however unusual some situations might be, this man was the Messiah—regardless of how much they still misunderstood about His purpose in coming. Only after His death and resurrection did they start to understand why Jesus came.

**5T 80, 81 —- MAJORITY OF ADVENTISTS FORSAKE THE TRUTH JUST LIKE THE 70 DISCIPLES. WHY? SAME REASON. THEY DO NOT EAT THE FLESH AND DRINK THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THEY DELIBERATELY MISUNDERSTAND CHRIST'S MEANING.**

**15** And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

**16** Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

**17** And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

**18** Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

DANIEL 12:1 — MALACHI 3:15-18  
REVELATION 3:20

CONTEXT RICH AND INCREASED WITH INTELLECTUAL TRUTH

REVELATION 14:4 — FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES.

THOSE DISCIPLES WHO FORSOOK JESUS SETTLED FOR THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION OF MESSIAH. THEY PLACED THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND THE TEACHING OF LEARNED MEN ABOVE ALL THAT THE SCRIPTURES TAUGHT.

LUKE 24:25-27, 44 — THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED MUCH OF WHAT THE BIBLE TAUGHT, BUT NOT “ALL.”

THEY SLIPPED THEIR OWN PRIVATE OPINIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS INTO THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE, TEACHING MANY IDEAS THAT MADE GODS INSPIRED WRITINGS CONTRADICT.

**What can we learn from this story about the fact that the majority is usually wrong? Why must we remember this, especially with the aspects of our faith that are unpopular with the majority—even the majority of Christians?**

[Many explained the testimonies to suit themselves. The truth of God is not in harmony with the traditions of men, nor does it conform to their opinions. Like its divine Author, it is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and forever. ...

Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the opinion of Sister White. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God. You know how the Lord has manifested Himself through the spirit of prophecy....

If you seek to turn aside the counsel of God to suit yourselves, if you lessen the confidence of God's people in the testimonies He has sent them, you are rebelling against God as certainly as were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram....

You might say that this communication was only a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne...]

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies has been steadily increasing as the people backslide from God. It is all through our ranks, all over the field...

There is a spirit of opposition to the plain word of God and to the testimony of His Spirit. There is a spirit of idolatrous exaltation of mere human reason above the revealed wisdom of God.

There are men among us in responsible positions who hold that the opinions of a few conceited philosophers, so called, are more to be trusted than the truth of the Bible, or the testimonies of the Holy Spirit. (5T, 62-82).

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd  
2

**Lesson 6: More Testimonies About Jesus (Wednesday)**

**November 2-8**