

➤ The students who departed that day departed because the doctrine was hard to take, even though they needed to hear it.

John 6:61-61 But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? ⁶² *What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?*”

- Those who departed would have witnessed the ascension of Jesus Christ if they just stuck with it.
- Only 11 out of 12 stuck it out and experienced some of the blessed realities in the spiritual life.
- What a blessing to be present to see the Lord’s ascension.
- What a blessing to be used by the Lord in the manner they were used.
- All they had to do was stick it out.

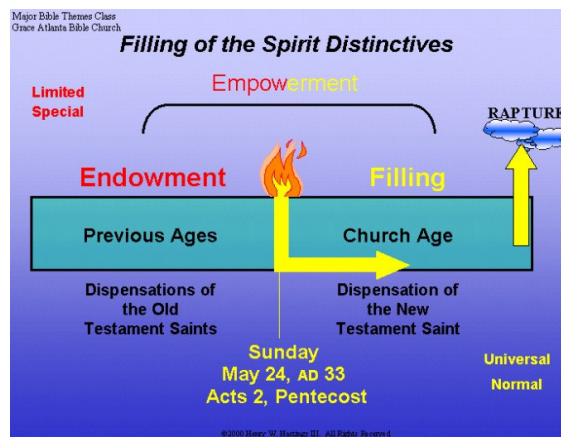
Let’s study what the Lord taught in the synagogue that made so many disciples stumble.

John 6:25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”

The Lord’s sermon can be divided into three parts -

➤ Part I: **John 6:26-40**

- Addressed primarily to the followers.



- Followers that are positive, but their priorities are messed up.
- They are focused on the Lord meeting their needs physically.

- They were not focused on their spiritual needs.

➤ Part II: **John 6:41-51**

- This was addressed to the religious leaders who are antagonistic.
- Their popularity has dwindled as the Lord's has increased.
- They attempt to distract the people from listening to what the Lord has to say about who He really is.

➤ Part III: **John 6:51-58**

- He divides those who are unconditionally willing and malleable from those who are conditionally willing and malleable.

POD: Positive volition has varying degrees.

- The varying degrees are based on one's faith in the Lord.

POD: One's level of faith, trust, or dependence in the Lord is directly related to one's level of malleability and willingness.

John 6:25-27 "Rabbi [*Teacher*], when did You get here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."

- Their priority is not spiritual but physical.
- They want Him to take care of their physical needs.
- That includes ushering in the kingdom because in the kingdom there will be great material prosperity.

²⁷ "Do not work for the food which perishes,

Do not spend your time and effort pursuing the details of life.

Instead - - seek things that have eternal value as opposed to things that moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal.

"Do not work for the food which perishes, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

"Do not work for the food which perishes, which the Son of Man will give to you!"

He will take care of our physical needs (the details of life) – the material things we need – when our priority is spiritual.

POD: God will take care of our material needs as we pursue and advance in His plan for our lives.

POD: Pursuing and advancing in His plan is contingent upon our willingness to be taught by God and malleability to His plan for our lives.

Matthew 6:32-34 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.