

Perseverance/Dedication to God's Will

John 6:26-27

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. ²⁷ "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

- **Do we stop teaching God's word when someone focuses on worldly things?**

John 6:41-71

⁴¹ Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. ⁴⁶ "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ "I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

- **How do we handle someone critiquing us rather than listening to God's message?**

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

- **How do correct misapplication of God's word?**

⁵⁹ These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" 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? ⁶³ "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. ⁶⁴ "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 it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

- **What do we do when God's commands are not accepted?**

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⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life." ⁶⁹ "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

- **Are we discouraged when people turn away from God's message?**

Matthew 12:15-16

¹⁵ But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. **Many followed Him, and He healed them all,** ¹⁶ and warned them not to tell who He was.

Mark 3:7-12

⁷ Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and **a great multitude from Galilee followed;** and also from Judea, ⁸ and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him. ⁹ **And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him;** ¹⁰ for He had healed many, with the result that **all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him.** ¹¹ Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" ¹² And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.

Matthew 4:24-25

²⁴ **The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.** ²⁵ **Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.**

Matthew 15:29-31

²⁹ Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there. ³⁰ **And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them.** ³¹ So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

Mark 3:20 And He came home, and **the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.**

Luke 12:1 Under these circumstances, after **so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another**, He began saying to His disciples first of all,

Matthew 5:1 **When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain;** and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

Mark 2:13 And **He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him,** and He was teaching them.

Perseverance/Dedication to God's Will

Mark 5:21-24

²¹ When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, **a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore.** ²² One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet ²³ and implored Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live." ²⁴ **And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.**

John 4:1-6

4 Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. ⁴ And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. So **Jesus, being wearied from His journey**, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- **Are we discouraged by the amount of work to do?**

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.