

Turning Back From Walking With Christ

Promise: the good news of forgiveness brings us back to the fold

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Proverbs 9:1-10; Ps 34:12-22; Eph 5:6-21; John 6:51-69
(Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 8/15/21)

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. – v. 66

Lead In – No doubt we have all known someone who is drifted or fallen away from the Faith. And I am willing to bet that in many of those cases it was indeed a drift and not a sudden and dramatic turnaround. At the same time, people who have left the faith often will be able to identify a precipitating event or circumstance, or perhaps even several situations. Friends, the possibility of apostasy is a real danger. This morning we will consider disciples who turned back and no longer walked with Jesus...

I. But First, the Ground Covered So Far In John 6

- A. Miraculous bread is a sign of more substantial...
- B. Word of God becomes Incarnate Word...
- C. Believing yes, but strong emphasis on gnawing...

II. Concerning the Disciples Who Turn Back

- A. We don't know whether they remain apostate...
- B. We know better than to think that Jesus failed...
- C. Sooner or later message has that which offends!

III. Concerning the Disciples Who Continue to Walk

- A. Peter and the twelve's dilemma...
- B. Even though they are not there yet...
- C. They too will all fall away! Then restored in forgive...

Parting Shot – So what sustains us and prevents us from drifting away? In a word, the Bread of Life! This substantial and sustaining bread has always been the Word. And indeed faith comes from hearing. And the Word which is Scripture points to the Word Incarnate which is Jesus. In him do we trust and lean on. And this Incarnate Word not only speaks to us, resides in us through his Spirit, but he also gives himself, flesh and blood, with the bread and wine of Holy Communion – for the forgiveness of sins...

Dt 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

esthio – eat. // *trogo* – gnaw, crunch, chew

Hoped for Role in Excommunication – that the unrepentant sinner turned out from fellowship (at the Table of Holy Communion) would come to his senses and return to repentant faith. (cf. Mt 18:15f.; 1Co 5:1f.; 2Co 2:5f.)

In Parable of the Sower – three of the four soil types on which the seed of God's Word was scattered failed to yield fruit (cf. Mt 13:1f.; Mk 4:1f.; Lk 8:4f.)

Mk 6:5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.

John 6:51-69 ESV

The Words of Eternal Life

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So 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 you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Is 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ac 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Isaiah's Holy One of Israel, distinguishes God from all the rest of his creation. (25 x)

Mt 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jn 20:22-23 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Mk 6:5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.

Turning Back From Walking With Christ

Promise: the good news of forgiveness brings us back to the fold

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Proverbs 9:1-10; Ps 34:12-22; Eph 5:6-21; John 6:51-69
(Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 8/15/21)

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. – v. 66

Lead In – No doubt we have all known someone who is drifted or fallen away from the Faith. And I am willing to bet that in many of those cases it was indeed a drift and not a sudden and dramatic turnaround. At the same time, people who have left the faith often will be able to identify a precipitating event or circumstance, or perhaps even several situations. Friends, the possibility of apostasy is a real danger. This morning we will consider disciples who turned back and no longer walked with Jesus...

I. But First, the Ground Covered So Far In John 6

- A. Miraculous bread is a sign of more substantial...
- B. Word of God becomes Incarnate Word...
- C. Believing yes, but strong emphasis on gnawing...

II. Concerning the Disciples Who Turn Back

- A. We don't know whether they remain apostate...
- B. We know better than to think that Jesus failed...
- C. Sooner or later message has that which offends!

III. Concerning the Disciples Who Continue to Walk

- A. Peter and the twelve's dilemma...
- B. Even though they are not there yet...
- C. They too will all fall away! Then restored in forgive...

Parting Shot – So what sustains us and prevents us from drifting away? In a word, the Bread of Life! This substantial and sustaining bread has always been the Word. And indeed faith comes from hearing. And the Word which is Scripture points to the Word Incarnate which is Jesus. In him do we trust and lean on. And this Incarnate Word not only speaks to us, resides in us through his Spirit, but he also gives himself, flesh and blood, with the bread and wine of Holy Communion – for the forgiveness of sins...

Dt 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

esthio – eat. // *trogo* – gnaw, crunch, chew

Hoped for Role in Excommunication – that the unrepentant sinner turned out from fellowship (at the Table of Holy Communion) would come to his senses and return to repentant faith. (cf. Mt 18:15f.; 1Co 5:1f.; 2Co 2:5f.)

In Parable of the Sower – three of the four soil types on which the seed of God's Word was scattered failed to yield fruit (cf. Mt 13:1f.; Mk 4:1f.; Lk 8:4f.)

Mk 6:5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.

John 6:51-69 ESV

The Words of Eternal Life

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So 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 you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Is 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ac 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Isaiah's Holy One of Israel, distinguishes God from all the rest of his creation. (25 x)

Mt 16:16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jn 20:22-23 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Mk 6:5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.

Psalm 34:12-22

- ¹²Who among **you** loves life*
and desires long life
to **enjoy** prosperity?
- ¹³Keep your tongue from **evil-speaking***
and your lips from **lying** words.
- ¹⁴Turn from evil **and** do good;*
seek peace **and** pursue it.
- ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD
are **upon** the righteous,*
and his ears are open **to** their cry.
- ¹⁶The face of the LORD
is against those **who** do evil,*
to root out the remembrance of them
from the earth.
- ¹⁷The righteous cry,
and **the** Lord hears them*
and delivers them
from **all** their troubles.
- ¹⁸The LORD is near to the **brokenhearted***
and will save those
whose **spirits** are crushed.
- ¹⁹Many are the troubles **of** the righteous,*
but the LORD will deliver him
out **of** them all.
- ²⁰He will keep safe **all** his bones;*
not one of them **shall** be broken.
- ²¹Evil shall **slay** the wicked,*
and those who hate the righteous
will be punished.
- ²²The LORD ransoms
the life **of** his servants,*
and none will be punished
who **trust** in him.

Psalm 34:12-22

- ¹²Who among **you** loves life*
and desires long life
to **enjoy** prosperity?
- ¹³Keep your tongue from **evil-speaking***
and your lips from **lying** words.
- ¹⁴Turn from evil **and** do good;*
seek peace **and** pursue it.
- ¹⁵The eyes of the LORD
are **upon** the righteous,*
and his ears are open **to** their cry.
- ¹⁶The face of the LORD
is against those **who** do evil,*
to root out the remembrance of them
from the earth.
- ¹⁷The righteous cry,
and **the** Lord hears them*
and delivers them
from **all** their troubles.
- ¹⁸The LORD is near to the **brokenhearted***
and will save those
whose **spirits** are crushed.
- ¹⁹Many are the troubles **of** the righteous,*
but the LORD will deliver him
out **of** them all.
- ²⁰He will keep safe **all** his bones;*
not one of them **shall** be broken.
- ²¹Evil shall **slay** the wicked,*
and those who hate the righteous
will be punished.
- ²²The LORD ransoms
the life **of** his servants,*
and none will be punished
who **trust** in him.