

Catch, Clean, & Cook Pt. 6
Follow Me! Part 2
Sermon Outline
November 5, 2017

Text – **John 6: 53-60**

Reading Schedule:

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>11/5</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 5; John 6: 1-15</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>11/6</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 6; John 6: 16-24</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11/7</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 17; John 6: 25-40</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>11/8</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 8; John 6: 41-59</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>11/9</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 9; John 6: 60-71</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>11/10</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 10; Romans 5: 6-8; Isaiah 6: 1-13</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11/11</i>	<i>Proverbs Ch. 11; Matthew 15: 29-39</i>

I AM A SPIRIT WHO HAS A SOUL

AND I LIVE IN A BODY!

I AM NOT A SOUL

I AM A SPIRIT

I AM NOT A BODY

I AM A SPIRIT

I AM A SPIRIT WHO HAS A SOUL

AND I LIVE IN A BODY!

FOLLOW ME!

John 6: 53-60 - Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have

no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

FOLLOW ME!

The concept of following Jesus was presented last week in the context of Jesus calling His twelve apostles. The twelve were those chosen by God to establish the church as apostles – sent ones, sent by Christ and represented an inner circle of those under the tutelage of Jesus Himself. The call to His Twelve Apostles was made very specifically and directly to the individuals Jesus chose. This is very different than the call to discipleship.

Isaiah 6: 8 tells us, - *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

God’s call to discipleship goes out to like a XM Satellite radio signal. It is distributed widely, but received only by those who are tuned in.

In the book of John chapter 6, we find Jesus delineating four different responses to the widely broadcasted call to discipleship He made to all who had ears to hear. An examination of this chapter yields application for those of us today who are receiving

the same call to discipleship, “Follow Me!” Jesus made over 2,000 years ago.

LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIP OF THOSE WHO FOLLOWED JESUS

There were great crowds following Jesus during this time of His earthly ministry. (Describe the GREAT CROWD that followed Jesus). Jesus points to four different levels of relationship those in the crowd hold toward Jesus.

1. Those who do not believe.
 - a. V. 30 – “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you?”
 - b. V. 36 – “**But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.**”

PRINCIPLE #1 – Your sin does not stop God’s grace!

- c. Romans 5: 8 – But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - d. Jesus fed the entire crowd, which included those who did not believe.
 - i. The beauty of God’s grace is unbelievers become believers because God allows them to first be in the crowd.
 - ii. You didn’t accept Jesus the first time He was presented to you either.
 - iii. God never sends anyone to hell because of sin. God sends folk to hell because they reject the remedy for sin – Jesus Christ!
2. Those who seek the physical benefits or blessings of God while avoiding or rejecting relationship with God.

- a. v. 26 – Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”
- b. Their relationship is based on the third component of a human being – the body.

PRINCIPLE #2 – Your blessings are a reflection of God’s love for you!

- c. Don’t let your blessings block your relationship with God. (Tell of the great faith of those in India who have so little material blessings).
- d. God will employ material blessings to elevate you to a spiritual relationship!
- e. The Matthew 15 account of Jesus feeding the four thousand records in verse 32 Jesus saying, “I have compassion for these people...I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”
- f. GOD LOVES ME!
 - i. Love is the loftiest preference on person demonstrates for another.
 - ii. Love is a demonstrated preference for your welfare.
 - iii. God’s love was not only demonstrated through Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection but through the material blessings we each receive at whatever level we receive them.
 - iv. He then reminds us (v. 55) “My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.”

3. Those who maintain an intellectual or emotional, but not spiritual connections with Jesus.
 - a. “On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it? (v.60) ...From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. (v.66)
 - b. Those whose relationship operates at a level of their soul.
 - c. Jesus must conform to the confines placed on Jesus by the person’s soul.

PRINIPLE #3 – God is Bigger Than That!

- d. **Isaiah 55: 8** tells us – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
 - e. Jesus does conform to the confines placed on Jesus by a person’s thinking.
 - i. Jesus makes available what is missing – the connection of Spirit to our spirits.
 - ii. Jesus said, *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life.”* (v. 63)
4. Those who are true disciples – committed and prepared followers of Jesus Christ. (vv. 67-69)
 - a. **John 6: 67-69** – *“You do not want to leave too, do you?”* Jesus asked the Twelve.⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him,

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

QUESTION – WHICH FOLLOWER ARE YOU?

- b. Holy Communion is more than a ritual we engage in monthly. It is a reminder each month of the question Jesus asks of us daily, “**You do not want to leave too, do you?**”
- c. Come today remembering:
 - i. My sin does not stop God’s grace in my life.
 - ii. My blessings are expressions of God’s love from me and they don’t block my relationship with God
 - iii. God is bigger than whatever I think God is.

Five-fold Mission of the Church

1. **MAGNIFY** – We express our love for God through praise and by obeying His Commands.
2. **MISSION** – We seize every opportunity to demonstrate Christ by witnessing to others by word and deed.
3. **MEMBERSHIP** – We encourage all to belong to God’s eternal family through fellowship with Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.
4. **MATURITY** – We study to grow more Christ-like in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
5. **MINISTRY** – We demonstrate God’s love by meeting the needs and healing the hurts of others.