

## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

### GFT-15 “MY WORDS ARE SPIRIT – THEY ARE LIFE”

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JOHN 6:60-63 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “*This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?*” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “*Do you take offense at this?*” <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

Jesus' words that those who believed in Him must, “*Eat His Flesh, and Drink His Blood*” were incredibly difficult for the Jewish Leaders and the people to accept. Even as He related these words to the practice of the “Passover” it was way above what they could understand from an intellectual perspective. *They “needed” spiritual help.*

Like many of Jesus' other teachings, these truths would only be understood “After” the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. They must be accepted “*by Faith*” on the basis of a person's trust in the “Jesus Christ - The Messiah.”

So, it is with the culture in which we live. People are called to “*believe*” and THEN they will understand. We are called to be witnesses, leading them to faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ... NOT to make the “world” understand. *We are saved by grace through faith... NOT by reason or logic.*

### WORDS THAT ARE SPIRIT & LIFE

JOHN 6:60-63 When many of his disciples heard it [Jesus' words about the “flesh and blood”], they said, “*This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?*” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “*Do you take offense at this?*” <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

“Many of His disciples heard it...” - This is, not only the “12” – it includes many who have been hearing and following from time to time ...

- In John alone there are “5” other references to this wider group [Jn 4:1; 7:3; 8:31; 9:28; 19:38]
- It is clear that this did not include the “12” who would remain – [Jn 6:66-67]

“A Hard saying...” – “severe / extreme” – difficult to accept – Not everything God says through His Word is “easy” to accept... And certainly, many things Jesus spoke were difficult for the people to hear... **THAT does not mean they are NOT truth.**

- Faith is not, nor can it be, based upon knowledge, reason, or understanding – otherwise it is not faith – although “faith” can be “informed” by those...
- Faith demands that we accept what is said *W/O evidence or proof... but simply trusting the one who spoke the words / made the promise...*

HEB 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

ROM 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> **But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

JOHN 11:40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that **if you believed you would see** the glory of God?”

*“that his disciples were grumbling about this...” - “to murmur to others so as to undermine and confuse”*

- Grumbling is the result of an inward disagreement or dissatisfaction... *it is manifest in communicating this to others...*
- Grumbling is meant to **“sway opinion”** or **“spread disinformation”** ... and it had its intended effect *“Do you take offense at this?” - To let something become a uncrossable line / to fall into the trap -*

*“What IF...” - WELL, they ARE going to see this... And it will be more difficult to reason away than His words just spoken here...*

*“...you were to see the SON OF MAN ascending to where he was before?” - This is an affirmation of His Deity and Humanity as He has been speaking about at many other times*

*“It is the Spirit who gives life...” - Here **“Spirit”** refers to the person of the Holy Spirit which is the agency by which **“Eternal Life”** is given... to those who believe*

*“The flesh is no help at all...” - The word “flesh” here is a reference to anything of a natural source or power ...*

- NO natural source, ability, reason, or knowledge can produce “Eternal Life” – they offer **NO HELP!**
- Intellect can NEVER come to “spiritual truth” – One cannot “know their way to salvation”

*“The words that I have spoken to you...”*

*“They are spirit... they are Life...”*

*HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

*EPH 6:17 “and take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...”*

- In many ways, the Words that Jesus spoke are **“way too deep”** for us to understand from our intellectual basis... *AND they were never meant to be...*
- His Words are not **“intellectual”** producing **“knowledge”** ... they are **“spiritual”** producing **“Life”**
- **Spiritual truth** must be **“Believed / Accepted as Truth”** it CANNOT be reasoned... rationalized
- The **“Life”** His words produce is like NO OTHER...
- One cannot **“learn”** salvation... BUT once accepted it can be experienced

## THE HOLY ONE OF GOD

*JOHN 6:64-65 But 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.)<sup>65</sup> And he said, **“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”***

The Father has granted that ONLY those who Believe should receive Eternal Life...

And THIS believing is also the access to “spiritual understanding”

The way to Eternal Life is both:

- “**IN**clusive” – ALL are welcome... anyone CAN come... ALL are given the opportunity to hear and Believe...
- “**EX**clusive” – Only those who BELIEVE will receive Eternal Life ... there is NO other access...

JOHN 6:66-71 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “*Do you want to go away as well?*” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,*” <sup>69</sup> *and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.*”

“Many of his disciples... turned back...” –

- There are “those who hear...” and “Those who believe and follow...”

JOHN 8:31-32

So, Jesus said to the twelve...

“Do you want to go away as well?”

I am certain that this was a question for them to reflect upon for themselves...

Just as with Judas, He knew what was in them, and the decision they would make....

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of Eternal Life...”

- Although they didn’t fully understand what Jesus had been saying... consider the confession they made... it was clear, definite, and affirming of what they believed about Jesus...

“We have believed...” – Your words and teachings... they are the witness of **WHO YOU ARE**

- They had not “*learned them*” – there was “*plenty*” they did not understand...
- NOR did the “*know them*” – as an absolute reality – an experiential basis
- They “*HAD come to a settled place of faith*”

“And have come to know...” – based therefore upon that faith... they had come to realize through observation, and intimate friendship...

“That you are the HOLY ONE OF GOD.” – NO question... No doubt... **YOU are the Messiah**

Vss 70-71 Jesus answered them, “*Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.*” <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

“Choose you...” –

- Selected from others by purpose... –
- ALL of the Twelve -

“A devil...” – “**Diabolos**” - *applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to take side with him, Satan (the accuser), the prince of the demons...*

- Certainly, Judas was going to do this... *Jesus knew it... expected it... accepted it...*
- Although “*known by God*” it was fully **Judas’ choice** when the time came...

John 9:1 And passing by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Master, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"He saw a man..." - There must have been something about the way Jesus

"Looked at him..." it wasn't just seeing...like the woman was not just touching - Jesus was ever engaged with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to be alert to what God may be desiring Him to do...always ready...always willing... Are we...??

"Who Did Sin?" – As if some / or ALL deserve to suffer / be oppressed – It was their natural response / their popular "theology of the day".

Unfortunately, that is also a common "theology" of our time.

"Born blind..." in the "history" of ridiculous questions this must be near the top...

"This man..."

"His Parents..."

The man sat silently at their feet – while these "strangers" argued about why he was blind. Wow, that's a real show of "compassion"!

The man was nothing more to them than an object lesson

It's no wonder the "world" has such little tolerance of "religion" – too often, instead of offering solutions, we are simply happy with discussing reasons

\*\*\* "Generational Curses" – see Appendix pgs 7-8

3 "Neither...!" Jesus answered

"But because of his blindness ... you will see God work a miracle for him.  
(Contemporary English Version)

Jesus would not let their question go unanswered... This needed to be addressed –

Thank God, it was Jesus they were questioning, or they all would have walked away feeling "pity" but only interested in their own pursuit of, "why?"

What would Jesus do? What work would He perform?

Without asking / delay / hesitation...

He showed us God's Work... To Heal / Deliver / Restore / Rescue / Revive / SAVE

3 Jesus answered, "Neither has this man nor his parents sinned..."

"But that the works of God might be revealed in him,

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day. Night comes when no man can work."

"I must work ..." energies – NOT labor – release the energy that produces

"the works ..." 1) Temporal – healing ... 2) Eternal – Salvation ...

5 "As long as I am in the world, 'I am the Light of the world.'"

"The Light of the World..."

Luke 2:28-35 "He took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Isa 42:1-9 "My Servant..."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

6 And when He had spoken these things, He spat on the ground and made clay from the spittle. And He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

"He spat... made clay" He showed His "contempt" for the ground which was cursed as a type of man's sin bringing all manner of sorrow, sickness, and death

"Anointed eyes..." He changed the "cursed ground" into a "healing agent" – "all creation waits to be released from the curse" – Ground to Medicine / Water to Wine / Bread to Renewed Flesh / Blood to Life

7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which translated is "Sent"). Therefore, he went and washed and came seeing.

### PC-13A "AND HE WORSHIPPED HIM"

8 Then the neighbors and those who had seen him before, that he was blind, said, Is this not he who was sitting and begging?

It is his friends who first refuse to accept the miracle... follow the "they's"

9 Some said, "This is he..."

Others said, "He only looks like him..."

But, he said, I am he.

10 Then they said to him, How were your eyes opened? 11 He answered and said, "A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' And going and washing, I received sight."

12 Then they said to him, Where is he? He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought him who once was blind to the Pharisees.

So fearful of the Pharisees ... they **cannot let this bring trouble to them**

14 And **it was a Sabbath** when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

See **Appendix pgs 4-6**

15 Then again **the Pharisees** also asked him how he had received his sight. He said to them, **He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see.**

16 Therefore **some of the Pharisees** said, **This man is not from God**, because he does not keep the Sabbath. **Others** said, How can a man, **a sinner**, do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

17 **They said** to the blind man again, What do you say about him, for he has opened your eyes? He said, **"He is a prophet."**

18 But **the Jews did not believe concerning him**, that **he had been blind and had received his sight**, **until they called the parents** of him having received sight.

19 And **they** asked them, saying, Is this your son, **whom you say was born blind**? How then does he now see?

*You say... How then... - How arrogant is "unbelief"? **Hard hearts...like clay***

20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. 21 But by what means he now sees, we do not know. Or who has opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age, ask him. He will speak for himself.

22 His parents spoke these things because **they feared the Jews**, for **the Jews** had already agreed **that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue**. 23 Therefore his parents had said, He is of age, ask him.

24 Then a **second time they called the man** who was blind and said to him, Give glory to God. **We know that this man is a sinner.**

25 He answered and said, Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, **that being blind, now I see.**

26 **They** said to him, **"What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"** 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? **Do you also want to become his disciples?"**

28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

A Frustrated Testimony...

11) "A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. And going and washing, I received sight." [29 words]

15) "He put clay upon my eyes, and I washed, and I see." [12 words]

25) "... being blind, now I see." [5 words]

30) "...he opened my eyes." [4 words]

34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?"  
And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

***They cast him 'out of the Temple'... The Lord of the Temple 'found him' – Chrysostom***

36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."

38 He said, "***Lord, I believe,***" and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, "***For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.***"

40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?"

