

DAY 34

An Allegiance to Pledge

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

John 6:68–69

Leadership Affirmation

My amazing Savior lives! He is worthy of my life, my love, my loyalty, and my leadership so that others may know and follow Him.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He had “concentric circles” of followers.^{xxvi} He ministered to the *Community* (the villages and cities). He spoke to, and fed, the *Crowds*. His *Congregation* numbers fluctuated, but at least five hundred gathered for one of His post-resurrection appearances. The *Committed* included men and women who supported His ministry, with one hundred twenty gathering in an upper room in the days leading up to Pentecost. His *Core* was comprised of twelve, of whom Jesus said one was a “devil” (John 6:71).

With this context in mind, one of the saddest phrases in the Gospels appears in John 6:66. Jesus’ popularity rose quickly after He fed five thousand men. People were swept along by His miracles. They longed for more.

And then the teaching got tough! Jesus proclaimed, “*I am the Bread of Life*,” the first of seven “I AM” statements recorded in John’s Gospel.^{xxvii} First, the Jews began grumbling about His message (John 6:41). Then some of His disciples began to grumble (John 6:60–61). John then wrote these sad words: *From that moment, many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him* (John 6:66).

Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, *You don’t want to go away too, do you?* (John 6:67). Simon Peter immediately responded, *Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life* (John 6:68).

The Christian life calls for a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It calls for one’s life, love, and loyalty. The Great Commission is the unfurled banner leading us forward into spiritual battle for the souls of men and women. The call of God is on us. The resurrected Christ is with us. The Holy Spirit is in us. He has given us a mandate to go. He is worthy of our allegiance, indeed our all. What are we waiting for?

Prayer for Protection

Lord Jesus, I cannot, I must not sit on the sidelines of Your global mission of introducing men and women of every language, every tribe, and every nation to the salvation You freely offer to all who will believe.