***John 6:67-69Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” 68But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”***

What a powerful testimony we have seen and heard this morning! Isn’t it amazing that we serve a God Who uses the Holy Spirit to pursue us, convict us? Jesus doesn’t promise ease as we understand it in the world. The world seeks to either absorb us… or expel us. It absorbs what is like it and expels what is foreign to it – **(Daddy’s shotgun pellets)** Count it all Joy when the world sees we are not like it.

If we were caught out on a freezing night and I said, “We have one match… we can either strike it and warm for seconds by the itty bitty flame, or we can choose to build a roaring fire to warm by, but we must choose wisely. No one in their right mind would say, “Let’s warm by the match – no, everyone would say build the fire!” Yet, when we turn from the eternal and chase the world, we are burning our one match for nothing that will last.

John 6 is such a powerful, powerful chapter in God’s word. Incredible miracles – Jesus feeding the 5000, walking on water! The power of Jesus, so very attractive, eternal life – I want that! Never hunger, never thirst! I want that. Take up my cross? Wait a minute. Deny my worldly self? Hold on. Suffer trials, tribulations, persecutions… accept God’s word as the Truth even in the shrieking, angry, screaming face of world opinion? This is difficult. Jesus didn’t say it would be easy.

Many disciples turned away in verse 66. The cost of discipleship became clear. Verse 67 says - *Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”* We know Jesus spoke to thousands, hundreds followed, He sent out 70 in Luke 10… now He looks at the 12 - Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the lesser, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot - Do you also want to go away? History is filled the “go aways”! At some point, every follower of Jesus – every person who is drawn to Jesus – faces that moment – do you also want to go away? The world pressures, the cross feels heavy, denial becomes harder, riches entice, ease invites, comfort hums a soothing tune, and we are tempted to purchase a twisted lie with our immortal soul. We are tempted to warm by the match, rather than draw near to the fire.

Listen and be encouraged by Peter’s response! Verse 68 *But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.* Lord to whom will we turn? No one else holds the keys to the Kingdom, there is no other way, there is no other Truth. Peter was literally saying, “You hold the very utterance of eternal life.” We all must say the same – What other choice is there if we want to reach the Kingdom of God and live eternally with Him?

Verse 69 *Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* There is One Truth, Eternal… we must make it Internal. There is only One Truth… if we are to reach the eternal, we must make it internal and live it. It’s easy to get caught up in the emotion of church or revival. It’s easy to see the flashy and hear the sweet words tickling ears. But a decision must be made – We have come to believe and KNOW – You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. We must never eat again of the dying, once we’ve tasted the eternal. Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.* Not everyone who says it believes it and knows it. Matthew 7:14 – *Because narrow* *is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Today, we heard a bold statement of belief. We know Who Jesus is. We have tasted the eternal. We will not be lured to sell our souls for a dying world. May we all state so boldly – Jesus, to Whom shall we go? May we all flee to the Cross and refuse to turn loose – may we all choose the warmth of eternity over the dying embers of this world. May we all use our mortal life to prepare for eternity.