

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Sincerity and trust

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02\_05\_2020



*On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his*

*disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6: 60-69)*

Jesus's teachings have often been considered difficult to understand and implement, in every age and in every place. We cannot say that it is easy to be his disciples. Yet, whoever commits to His teachings, sooner or later, even in the face of yet another difficulty, will find himself admitting that only Jesus can help him. In this historical moment of vast uncertainty, are we turning sincerely and confidently to our Lord, like Peter did?