

GOSPEL PEARLS

What you like is not necessarily good

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07_05_2022

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?' 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' (John 6, 60-69)

Jesus' invitation to eat His flesh and drink His blood is judged unacceptable and is rejected; it seems too incredible that He can give His actual flesh to eat. Still, the apostles remain faithful to Jesus: their faith is expressed and interpreted by Peter who recognises Jesus' words are more than human words, they are words of eternal life. Yet, one other apostle doesn't believe what Jesus says. It is Judas who will betray Him, indeed he has already begun to betray Him. Are you like Peter who accepts Jesus' teaching even when he neither understands nor likes it, or are you similar to Judas wanting to make Jesus say what you want by adjusting the words of the Gospel to your own convenience?