

Why Many Followers Walked Away

Written by Bill Perkins

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me, and I in them."

-John 6:56

After speaking these words, Jesus didn't
lose followers because He was unclear.
He lost them because He was too clear.
When He said, "Eat my flesh,"
many thought He was urging cannibalism.
But He wasn't speaking of violence—
He was speaking of union.
He wasn't offering a figure of speech.
He was offering Himself.

And the invitation wasn't new.
It was rooted in the story they already knew.

Before deliverance came, the lamb
had to be slain-and eaten (Exodus 12).
Israel didn't just sacrifice the lamb.
They consumed it.
Jesus, as the true Passover Lamb, fulfills this pattern.
To eat His flesh
is to participate in the deliverance
He provides-not just observe it.

The Law forbade drinking blood because "the life
is in the blood" (Leviticus 17).
So when Jesus says,
"Drink my blood," He's claiming divine authority.
He's saying: I am the source of life.
To drink My blood is to receive My life.

This isn't illustration.
It's ingestion.
It's not abstraction.

It's abiding.

To eat His flesh is to receive
His suffering, His Spirit, His life.

To drink His blood is to let
His shed blood cleanse your spiritual thirst-not
just for comfort, but for control.

Many walked away-not because they misunderstood,
but because they couldn't accept the mystery

You may not know this about Jesus:
He offers life to be received, not just teaching to be followed.

Where in your life do you
feel spiritually hungry-and how might Jesus be
inviting you to feed on His presence,
not just His promises?

Father, thank You for offering Your Son-not
just as a teacher to follow,
but as life to receive.

Feed my hunger with Your mercy.
Quench my thirst with Your Spirit.
Let Your life flow into mine-until I
no longer live for You, but through You.
I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.