

# John 6:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

## Analysis

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'From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.' The discourse produces departure. Many disciples—not merely curious crowds but those who had followed—abandon Jesus. His teaching is too hard (verse 60), too offensive, too demanding. This separates genuine from superficial followers. Following Jesus through difficulty proves more than following for benefits.

## Historical Context

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This represents the first major defection from Jesus' following. The demanding nature of His teaching revealed shallow commitment. These were disciples (mathetai), not merely curious observers. Their departure challenged the Twelve's loyalty (verse 67). Jesus allows departure—He doesn't soften truth to retain followers.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Jesus allow His teaching to drive people away rather than softening it?
2. What distinguishes those who stay from those who leave when teaching becomes difficult?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐκ	τούτου	πολλοὶ	ἀπῆλθον	τῶν	μαθητῶν	αὐτοῦ	εἰς
From	that	time many	went	G3588	disciples	him	back
G1537	G5127	G4183	G565		G3101	G846	G1519
τὰ	ὀπίσω	καὶ	οὐκέτι	μετ'	αὐτοῦ	περιεπάτουν	
G3588	G3694	and	no more	with	him	walked	
		G2532	G3765	G3326	G846	G4043	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 9:62** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

**1 John 2:19** (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

**Hebrews 10:38** (Parallel theme): Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

**John 6:60** (Parallel theme): Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

**John 8:31** (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

**2 Timothy 4:10** (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

**Matthew 19:22** (Parallel theme): But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

**2 Timothy 1:15** (Parallel theme): This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

**John 6:64** (Parallel theme): But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

**Zephaniah 1:6** (Parallel theme): And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

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