



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO-CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 51 (August 22, 2021) 21th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Cycle B
Theme: An Active “Yes” in Faith to Jesus Christ
John 6:59-60



INTRODUCTION

Review of the Sunday Gospel readings for the past several weeks according to John.
 What did Jesus teach about himself in our Gospel?
 In particular, we have heard that Jesus teaches us that He is the Bread of Life.
 Today’s Gospel tells us about the attitude of those who have followed Jesus and the apostles who heard Jesus’ teaching.



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, you have caused your Holy Word to be written for our learning help us so to know by reading and understanding what is written in the Scriptures
 We thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and strength to our lives,
 so that we may embrace and always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.
 Take us and use us to love and serve all people in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Glory Be
 An Australian Prayer Book (Adapted for the use of this module)



PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

Proclamation of the Gospel Story Gospel Jn 6:60-69

Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)
A moment of prayerful silence
We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: A reading according to the Gospel of John 6:60-69
All: Glory to you O Lord.



Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"
 Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,

he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?
 It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail.
 The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."
 Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him.
 And he said,
 "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.
 Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you. Lord Jesus Christ

1.2 Brief Guided Silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

Describe the people’s reactions on Jesus’ teaching. What did they say?

1.3 Text in Context

What is behind the Gospel of John?

In the whole sixth chapter of the Gospel of John, we have seen Jesus' miracles of feeding the five thousand, his walking on water, his long talk on being the Bread of Life, followed by the people’s rejection of his teaching. In today’s Gospel, at the last part of the this chapter, we hear Peter's proclaiming his faith in Christ

Remember that John wrote this Gospel for the first Christians, about 70 years after Jesus’ death. John needed not repeat what Matthew, Mark and Luke had written. Instead, he deepened who really Jesus is (his identity) in his Gospel.
 We, readers of today, could very well say, I believe in the Father ,, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, as the Creed says. But most of the characters in John’s story who are mostly Jews had a real struggle to understand that Jesus came from heaven. They could hardly accept Jesus as God himself who came down on earth and that Jesus and the Yahweh, they believed and their ancestors are but ONE GOD

1. Did all of Jesus’ disciples accept his teaching? (No, many of them could not accept his words and they just left.)
2. Who accepted Jesus’ teaching? (the Twelve apostles; Simon Peter)
3. What did Simon Peter say that made the Twelve apostles believe in Jesus? (that Jesus came from God; that Jesus could lead them to eternal life.



Reactions of Jesus' Followers

We may say that the direct hearers of Jesus' preaching must have been fortunate since they heard from the mouth of Jesus who he really is. Jesus repeatedly told them: *I am the bread of life... Jn 6:35)*

Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (Jn 6:68)

Those who heard Jesus' teaching were mostly Jews and were devoted to the commandments and believed in the True God, Yahweh. They must have seen Jesus performing miracles and heard him preaching in the synagogue. They were amazed at Jesus' wisdom and found him different from the other teachers of the law of their time. They learned a lot from Jesus and became his disciples. But now they have to make a decision, if they would continue to follow him.

But Instead of being grateful of as ones of the first to hear from Jesus, we may express what they said one another in these words: *We know the family of this man, Jesus. Yet he talks as if he is God. What he says about himself is hard to accept.*

This was the way an ordinary Jew thought about Jesus. Frustrated by the foreign rule of the Romans, they expected that the Messiah would come to them with superpower to destroy their enemies.

Jesus is not that kind of being who is neither aggressive nor defensive. Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah would give his flesh and blood to give his life to all. Jesus is pointing forward to the Cross from which he would suffer and die as the greatest act of his love for each one of us.

Following Jesus – A Personal Decision

Within the circle of Jesus' followers, faith was tested and shaken.

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life.

And perhaps influenced by their old mindset, they clung to their old belief. As they led their own life, they refused to accept Jesus' authority over them.

God gives us the freedom to choose. He does not force us or makes us robot to overpower our will to follow him.

So, he told those who separated from him:

It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no help at all (or is of no avail.)"

God is the creator who rules over who has life; we in our human body (flesh) can't create life itself.

A true disciple listens to according to the Spirit that gives life and submit oneself totally to God. After all, we are all God's creatures who are limited in many ways.

We may enjoy a life of our own with our self-made success. But this will not last long. One who lives in the flesh rejects the life that Jesus offers.

Then, Jesus asks if the Twelve want to forsake him like everyone else. He said to them: *"Do you also want to leave?"*

Then Peter replied: *Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Peter answered according to the Spirit. At that moment he must have felt the loving look of Jesus. In behalf of

the Twelve apostles, he promptly said "Yes" in great faith to Jesus. There's no other way to go but in him alone.

We are God's creatures. We are all subject to God. We have nothing to be proud of except of the love of God for each one of us. We are made for God because we are meant for God, our eternal end.

Shall we say with Peter now: ***We have come to believe and are convinced that you [Jesus][are the Holy One of God?***

God is the supreme ruler. He is all-powerful. God is in control though all seem uncertain at this time of pandemic,

Do I recognize God's sovereignty in all that is happening now?

What motivates me in following Jesus?

Where am I in my faith-life or relationship with God at this difficult time?

Are there moments when I feel like going away from Jesus? What help me in such situations?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

We say "Amen" to the statement "The Body of Christ" when we receive holy Communion. "Amen" simply means "Yes, I believe". At this moment we, declare God's faithfulness towards us and we place our life in total trust in God. This is not a mere idea but an act of the heart, mind and will to do something.

How do I show my active YES in faith to Jesus Christ towards God and others who are both near and far from me? They may be my immediate family members and community and those unknown to me who are in great need (victims of Covid-19, people of Myanmar and Afghanistan).



CLOSING PRAYER

*Loving Father, in your graciousness, you not only inspired our forefathers to perceive the light of Christ and allow the cross to be planted in our rich soil, but also in your overflowing generosity, you willed that they be bathed with the waters of baptism and nourished with the bread and wine in the Eucharist.

*Merciful Father, as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines we ardently ask you to fill our hearts with gratitude for this most precious gift of the Christian Faith. Bless the Filipino People as we rejoice in this great jubilee of our faith. May our hearts burn with holy desire to love and serve you and like your Son, Jesus Christ, offer our life as a holy sacrifice, a sacred oblation pleasing to you. Through your grace, renew our love for you! Renew our love for your Church!

*May this gift of 500 years of Christian faith bring us new enthusiasm and vigor for the mission. May the gift we have received, we give as a gift to the world. Amen.

Response for each invocation to the Saints: Pray for us
Mary, Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage/
Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church,/ San Lorenzo Ruiz/ San Pedro Calungsod,

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 150 Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed. As personal adherence to God and assent to his truth, Christian faith differs from our faith in any human person. It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature

