

CONCERNING THE WAY

November 3, 2009

LESSON 80: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Chapter 6 – Christ the Bread of Life

This is the longest chapter in the gospel of John, but it covers events of probably less than 24 hours. During this time, Jesus fed the five thousand, spent time alone with God in prayer, walked on the water, and taught a lesson in a synagogue on the Bread of Life. It was a busy day! At the beginning of the day the crowds of people were ready to crown Him king, but by the end many had rejected Him as Messiah and He even lost many disciples. It is thought that from six months to a year has passed since chapter 5. According to the other gospels, Jesus spent that time mostly in Galilee and became more and more popular with the people.

John 6:1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (also called the Sea of Tiberias).

John is the only writer in the New Testament that refers to the lake this way. In the 20's Herod built a town on the shores of Lake Galilee called Tiberias, in honor of the Emperor Tiberias. The name, by the time John wrote this, was also used for the lake by the local people. This is another little note to the Gentiles, who would have known the lake by this name.

John 6:2-4 A large crowd was following him because they were observing the miraculous signs he was performing on the sick. (3) So Jesus went on up the mountainside and sat down there with his disciples. (4) (Now the Jewish feast of the Passover was near.)

This tells us that the majority, at least, of the miracles Jesus was performing were healings. "Mountainside" doesn't have to mean a particular hill or mountain, but because John uses a definite article before the word "mountainside", it probably is a specific hill. The disciples here were more than just twelve; Jesus had probably accumulated a large group of followers by this time, as we'll see later.

John 6:5-6 Then Jesus, when he looked up and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread so that these people may eat?" (6) (Now Jesus said this to test him, for he knew what he was going to do.)

Jesus asked Phillip this in order to test him, and I assume that the correct answer might have been something like, "Lord, why would we need to buy food when we have the creator of all food here with us, someone who has already turned water into wine?"

John 6:7 Philip replied, "Two hundred silver coins worth of bread would not be enough for them, for each one to get a little."

Oops, I don't think that's the answer Jesus was looking for. He analyzed the situation in a purely human, material way, not in an expression of faith. So this was a teaching lesson for Phillip. One silver coin (a denarius) was an average day's pay for a laborer, so this would be about eight month's pay.

John 6:8-10 One of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, (9) "Here is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good are these for so many people?" (10) Jesus said, "**Have the people sit down.**" (Now there was a lot of grass in that place.) So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

Andrew also didn't show much faith, but at least he did something, bringing someone to Jesus (which might have been his character, since he's the one that brought Peter to Jesus).

In verse ten John includes another little comment (about the grass) that is a clue that he was an eyewitness to this event. He didn't get it from someone else, he was there. Notice it says there were five thousand men. With women and children there could have been 15,000 or more!

This miracle is the only one mentioned in all four gospels, but John is the only one that speaks of the small boy. Once again, Jesus uses someone considered insignificant or inferior to do a great work.

Of course, the lesson we learned in Sunday School still applies. This little boy gave all he had to Jesus, and Jesus multiplied it to feed thousands. What do you have to give Jesus? Whatever you give - money, time, possessions, etc., you will get back much more than you give. It's building up treasure in heaven.

John 6:11-13 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed the bread to those who were seated. He then did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. (12) When they were all satisfied, Jesus said to his disciples, "**Gather up the broken pieces that are left over, so that nothing is wasted.**" (13) So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves left over by the people who had eaten.

The giving of thanks for the food was mostly likely after the Jewish custom of saying grace at meals, from Deuteronomy 8:10. He may have used the traditional formula which was (in English), "Blessed are you Jehovah our God, King of the world, who causes to come forth bread from the earth."

We can see from what Jesus did that God is a God of order, not confusion. He didn't just start making food and throwing it out to the crowd, or make it suddenly appear in everyone's hands. He had everyone sit down, and Mark says that the men sat in groups of 50 and 100 (Mark 6:40). He gave thanks to the Father for the food, and then He used His disciples to distribute the food to the people. And we see that the remaining food wasn't just thrown away, it was gathered up, probably for use later on.

The fact that there was food left over tells us that everyone must have eaten until they were full. Notice it doesn't say there were any fish left over, just bread. There could have been fish, but the bread is mentioned by John because that is what Jesus is going to be speaking about next.

John 6:14 Now when the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus performed, they began to say to one another, "**This is certainly the Prophet who is to come into the world.**"

This is a reference to what Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:15. That is a Messianic prophecy, so the people were right! They knew their scriptures that much, at least! However, most Jews at the time thought the prophecy referred to another prophet like Moses, not the Messiah.

John 6:15 Then Jesus, because he knew they were going to come and seize him by force to make him king, withdrew again up the mountainside alone.

Jesus knew that His time had not come yet, so He withdrew. He did not come to become king by force, so He avoided any attempts like this. He also knew their hearts, that they only wanted a king to free them from the Romans, and to feed them more bread. He came to save them spiritually, not politically.

Matthew and Mark say that He went up the mountainside alone to pray.

John 6:16-21 Now when evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, (17) got into a boat, and started to cross the lake to Capernaum. (It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.) (18) By now a strong wind was blowing and the sea was getting rough. (19) Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they caught sight of Jesus walking on the lake, approaching the boat, and they were frightened. (20) But he said to them, "**It is I. Do not be afraid.**" (21) Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat came to the land where they had been heading.

The Sea of Galilee is a lake in northern Israel that's eight miles wide at its widest point and thirteen miles long. It's 600 feet below sea level and surrounded by hills. It is known for sudden, violent storms. The disciples may have been more than halfway across the water when the storm came up, so they didn't turn back. The storms on this lake can be dangerous even for experienced fishermen.

Sometimes people overlook the fact that there was another miracle in verse 21. As soon as Jesus got into the boat, they instantly landed at the place they were heading for.

There is a little more detail given in the other gospels, such as Peter jumping out of the boat and walking to Jesus on the water, in Matthew 14:

Matthew 14:23-33 And after he sent the crowds away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. (24) Meanwhile the boat, already far from land, was taking a beating from the waves because the wind was against it. (25) As the night was ending, Jesus came to them walking on the sea. (26) When the disciples saw him walking on the water they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" and cried out with fear. (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them: "**Have courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.**" (28) Peter said to him, "Lord, if it is you, order me to come to you on the water." (29) So he said, "**Come.**" Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. (30) But when he saw the strong wind he became afraid. And starting to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (31) Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "**You of little faith, why did you doubt?**" (32) When they went up into the boat, the wind ceased. (33) Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

"The Lord has to balance our lives; otherwise we will become proud and then fall. The disciples had experienced great joy in being part of a thrilling miracle. Now they had to face a storm and learn to trust the Lord more. The feeding of the 5,000 was the lesson, but the storm was the examination after the lesson." Warren W. Wiersbe

John 6:22-25 The next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the lake realized that only one small boat had been there, and that Jesus had not boarded it with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. (23) But some boats from Tiberias came to shore near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. (24) So when the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. (25) When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Some (obviously not all) of the crowd from the feeding of the 5000 tried to follow Jesus, probably wanting breakfast. These are the people who wanted to take Jesus and force Him to be king, and get Him to do what they wanted Him to do. They crossed the sea to Capernaum looking for Him, and this group, along with some people from Capernaum, is who Jesus will be speaking to next.

And He is apparently speaking in a synagogue in Capernaum, as we find out in verse 59. This may have been the Sabbath, and Jesus was giving the Sabbath message. This was probably the hardest public sermon He preached in all of the gospels (hardest to accept).

John 6:26 Jesus replied, "I tell you the solemn truth, you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate all the loaves of bread you wanted."

Jesus knew why they were really following Him, because of their stomachs! They got fed, and that's what they wanted from Him, more free food. They didn't see the spiritual nature of the miracle Jesus did, but only the physical aspect of it.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food that disappears, but for the food that remains to eternal life — the food which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has put his seal of approval on him."

Wow, this is quite a statement. Jesus knows we need food, but He is saying, "Get your minds and hearts off the physical things and on the spiritual food that I can give you." These people were following Jesus for the wrong reasons.

John 6:28 So then they said to him, "What must we do to accomplish the deeds God requires?"

They're so earthbound that they still think He's talking about physical food. The Greek here is literally, "What must we do to work the works of God?" They're saying, show us what you want us to do for that food, and we will do it! Like so many people today, they were focused on what they could do to earn God's favor.

"So much in our relationship with Jesus remains rooted in materialism. We trust Him, hoping He'll keep us healthy. Or get us a job. We even pray for the Lord to give us the numbers so we can win Lotto! . . . It's not that God doesn't care about our material needs. God does. And He meets them, providing our "daily bread." The thing is that God cares most about our spiritual needs: the truly vital and important needs that every human being has." Lawrence O. Richards

John 6:29 Jesus replied, **"This is the deed God requires — to believe in the one whom he sent."**

Very important verse - the only "work" that a person can do that is acceptable to God for salvation is to believe in Christ (also 1 John 3:23).

John 6:30-31 So they said to him, **"Then what miraculous sign will you perform, so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? (31) Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "**

Wait, didn't He just do an incredible miracle in front of them? Well, either these people are incredibly thick, or the people asking this question were from Capernaum and hadn't seen that miracle.

Why are they talking about manna? Well, it may not be just because of feeding of the 5,000. It was believed by many Jews that the prophet Jeremiah had hidden the jar of manna kept in the ark of the covenant, and that the Messiah would reveal Himself by producing the hidden manna (Jesus mentions the hidden manna in Revelation 2:17). The Messiah was traditionally thought to bring manna. The rabbis taught, "As the first redeemer caused the manna to fall from heaven, even so shall the second redeemer cause the manna to fall." The crowd was asking Jesus to duplicate the miracle of Moses in bringing down bread from heaven.

John 6:32-33 Then Jesus told them, **"I tell you the solemn truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but my Father is giving you the true bread from heaven. (33) For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."**

Jesus had to remind them that it wasn't Moses who sent the manna, but God. And He repeated to them that He was the true bread from heaven! Again He is trying to get their minds off the physical for one second, and pay attention to who He really is and why He came.

This is a good lesson for us. How often do we pray for physical things as opposed to spiritual things? Oh, Lord, please help me pay my bills, please heal me, please help me make more money, etc. How often do we ask God for more of Him? He knows of our physical needs and will provide for them. But He wants to give us of Himself. Ask for better things, lasting things. What are things you should be asking for?

John 6:34 So they said to him, **"Sir, give us this bread all the time!"**

Still stuck on the material bread - yes, we want free food all the time! Yes, give it, give it, give it!

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never go hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty."**

This is the first direct "I AM" statement by Jesus in the book of John. Whenever He says something like this, He is claiming to be God. When talking to Moses, God called Himself "I AM" (Exodus 3:14).

Of course Jesus is speaking spiritually here, about eternal life. No rational person would read this and think that Jesus is saying we can literally eat Jesus' body for food any time we're hungry. The way John writes this sentence tells us that coming to Jesus is the same as believing in Jesus.

This is where we get the phrase “Come to Jesus”. Just as we eat physical food to sustain our bodies, believing in Jesus, or “partaking” of Him spiritually gives us spiritual food for our souls that will sustain us forever. This is the beginning of a discourse by Jesus that goes to verse 57. It’s important to understand that He is speaking spiritually throughout this entire discourse.

John 6:36-37 But I told you that you have seen me and still do not believe. (37) Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never send away.

Seeing is not always believing. In 20:29 Jesus blesses those who have believed without seeing Him.

Verse 37 is very important, and it helps us to understand the doctrine of predestination. Jesus is explaining how it works. The Father is the one who chooses who will come to Jesus, and all of them will then make the decision to come to Him, and He will never reject them.

Has the Father given Jesus everyone? No. Can everyone come to the Son? Conceivably they could. Will they come to the Son by themselves? No. They have to be drawn by the Father, and that is His sovereign work. Of all who are drawn by the Father, how many will come to Jesus? All of them. Of all who come to Jesus, how many will fall away or be lost? None. Thank you, Lord, for this profound truth!

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

The Father sent Jesus to do His will. He always submits to the Father.

John 6:39-40 Now this is the will of the one who sent me — that I should not lose one person of every one he has given me, but raise them all up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father — for everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him to have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

This again is an incredible promise, let’s digest it slowly. It is God’s sovereign will that none of those whom He has given to Jesus will be lost, and they will be resurrected to eternal life.

“Everyone who looks on the Son” is obviously speaking spiritually. Those of us who look on Jesus with our hearts and believe in Him will have eternal life. But saving faith has everything to do with understanding who Christ is. The Greek word translated “looks on” doesn’t just mean “seeing”, but it means contemplating, or in other words, seeing with the eyes of faith. The Jews saw Christ, but not with the eyes of faith.

Twice in this verse Jesus stresses that those who come to Him will be resurrected.

John 6:41-42 Then the Jews who were hostile to Jesus began complaining about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," (42) and they said, "Isn't this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

This is the reaction to what Jesus said, the same as saying, “Who does He think He is, anyway, God?

Uh, yes, He is! Some of them apparently knew His family, and couldn't accept the possibility that He could be divine.

John 6:43-44 Jesus replied, "Do not complain about me to one another. (44) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Again Jesus wants to make sure we get the point of how salvation works. It is the Father who draws people, they do not come to Jesus by their own accord. They may think, sincerely, that they are doing so, not being aware of all the influences God has been bringing on them in order to lead them to that decision. Human response is always dependent upon God's initiative. How many can come if they haven't been called by the Father? None. And Jesus repeats for the third time that those who come to Him will be resurrected.

It's important to understand that the Father is not a capricious gatekeeper of some kind who is only letting in some people, and holding up His hand to the rest, saying, "No, you cannot come in." He doesn't have to do that. Sin is so pervasive, and we are so depraved. No one seeks to come to God, no one even wants to get in, that's not how they think. And many people are happy in their sin, they don't want anything else.

The Father has to reach out and touch hearts just to get them to the point where they even want to come to Jesus. He's not pushing people away; anyone who wants to come will be drawn in. Don't ask me how He does it, no one knows, and don't let anyone tell you that they know. I don't think it is right to speculate that God looks into the future to see if someday they might accept Him. That seems almost blasphemous to me. Only God knows the reasons why He chooses the ones He does, and I don't think we should try to figure out His motives.

John 6:45-46 It is written in the prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to me. (46) (Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God — he has seen the Father.)

It is traditionally thought that Jesus is paraphrasing Isaiah 54:13, but He could also be referencing another Kingdom prophecy - Micah 4:2. The ones who come to Him will be taught by God. Those who truly seek Him do not need any more proof. This is one way that the Father draws people, by teaching them. He works on people, opening their hearts to Him. He may use you or me in some way to plant the seed, which the Holy Spirit will water. But the Father does not work on every heart, sad to say.

And John then inserts a comment that people don't learn from the Father by seeing the Father, only Jesus has seen the Father. But people have to be taught by the Father. This is why many think that any time you see an appearance by God in the Old Testament (theophany), it is actually the pre-incarnate Christ that is appearing to people.

John 6:47-49 I tell you the solemn truth, the one who believes has eternal life. (48) I am the bread of life. (49) Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

Jesus is referring back to what the people said in verse 31 about the manna. He is pointing out that He's not speaking of that kind of food from heaven. People that ate that food died and it did not

give them eternal life.

John 6:50-51 This is the bread that has come down from heaven, so that a person may eat from it and not die. (51) I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

People who eat of this living bread will die physically, but be resurrected to eternal life. This is all possible because He is sacrificing His own body for the world. See, Christ died for the world, but only some will come to Him.

John 6:52 Then the Jews who were hostile to Jesus began to argue with one another, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

You would think by now some of them would start to get it, that at least a few would wonder, "Hmmm, I wonder if He's speaking of something other than physical flesh?" But I guess not, they are too dead spiritually.

John 6:53-56 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. (54) The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. (56) The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood resides in me, and I in him.

These verses have caused great misunderstanding in the church. But if you have been paying attention to what Jesus has been saying since verse 35, it should be clear what He is saying in these verses.

This is why taking verses out of context is so dangerous. An entire doctrine sprang up on just these few verses in the Catholic Church long ago, and that is why to this day they think that when they take communion, they are literally eating the flesh of Christ and drinking His blood. They believe that when they eat the bread, it miraculously changes to the flesh of Christ as it goes down their throat. In the same way, they believe that when they drink the wine, it changes to the blood of Christ as it goes to the stomach. And they believe that if you do not do this, then you will not have eternal life.

There may be some connection between these verses and the Lord's Supper, but that's not the point of the passage. It is referring to a spiritual feeding upon Christ, first by receiving Him as Savior and then by reading and studying the Word.

Anyone who reads this entire discourse by Jesus without theological bias can see that Jesus was not saying we have to literally eat His body and drink His blood! Verse 35 and 40 make it clear - "eating His flesh" is coming to Him. "Drinking His blood" is believing in Him, and this is what gives eternal life. All along Jesus has been speaking of spiritual food, not physical food.

The people Jesus was speaking to then didn't get it, and obviously many people still don't get it. They are thinking they have to literally "eat His flesh", and they miss the part about a personal receiving of Christ and His sacrifice for their sins. It is not about some physical ritual! It is about a personal relationship, as you can see in verse 56.

“Is he [Jesus] as real to you spiritually as something you can taste or handle? Is He as much a part of you as that which you eat? Do not think me blasphemous when I say that He must be as real and as useful to you as a hamburger and French fries. I say this because, though He is obviously far more real and useful than these, the unfortunate thing is that for many people He is much less.” James Montgomery Boice

Food, to do us any good, has to be taken into our lives and digested. I think you can take what Jesus is saying here as meaning that He must be taken into our lives by faith and absorbed. If all we do is hear about Him in church and sing about Him, it's the same as just looking at a loaf of bread and not eating it. It does us no good.

John 6:57-58 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who consumes me will live because of me. (58) This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread your ancestors ate, but then later died. The one who eats this bread will live forever."

Jesus sums up this sermon by stressing again that the one who comes to Him, who eats this spiritual bread, will live forever.

John 6:59-60 Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. (60) Then many of his disciples, when they heard these things, said, "This is a difficult saying! Who can understand it?"

Many of the disciples (not all) didn't understand what Jesus was saying either. Disciple literally means "learner" and is used in different ways in the New Testament. It can include unbelievers (see v. 64), spiritually mature believers, (8:31), or it can mean the twelve apostles (see 2:11). The context determines meaning.

Here it just means learner. Some of the crowd were students; they came to learn. Not all of these had believed in Christ. It was hard for the Jewish learners to accept the idea of eating flesh and drinking blood. Jews were forbidden to even taste blood.

John 6:61-62 When Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining about this, he said to them, "Does this cause you to be offended? (62) Then what if you see the Son of Man ascending where he was before?"

Some of the disciples were evidently offended by what He said, probably about the "eating His flesh and drinking His blood" part. They were still thinking physically. This teaching was hard for them and they learned it was going to cost them, it wasn't about free food and staging a revolution.

Jesus is saying, "Is this all it takes to make you fall away from me? You're going to see much more difficult things!", speaking of His upcoming crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. He came here from heaven, and He was going back.

John 6:63 The Spirit is the one who gives life; human nature is of no help! The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Here Jesus absolutely confirms that He is speaking spiritually. See, you don't have to guess when the Bible is not speaking literally. It tells us! He says the words He was speaking were spiritual, and they give life.

The literal Greek translation of “human nature is of no help” is “the flesh counts for nothing”. Both are true, and extremely important to remember.

John 6:64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus had already known from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

The Lord knew the hearts and minds of everyone who was following Him, knew that some would not believe Him, and knew who would betray Him.

John 6:65 So Jesus added, "Because of this I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has allowed him to come."

For the fourth time in this chapter Jesus stresses the sovereignty of God in the work of salvation. No one comes unless the Father allows him to come. The Greek sense of the phrase “has allowed him to come” is “has been given him to come”.

This is hard stuff for those of you who were brought up in Arminian theology that always spoke of free will and not of God’s sovereignty. I’m sorry, I didn’t write this, it’s not my idea. The Bible is very clear, it is God who chooses who will be saved. We are still responsible for our decision, but it is God who does the choosing.

Some can’t accept this truth, just like some of Jesus’ disciples couldn’t accept it. We must reject our preconceived notions, what we want to be true, and submit to what Jesus says, even if we don’t like it or understand it.

John 6:66 After this many of his disciples quit following him and did not accompany him any longer.

It may only be an interesting tidbit, but this is the only 6:66 verse in the entire New Testament.

By this time there were many more than twelve disciples, but there were also others who were followers and considered disciples of Jesus. Many of them left Him because they couldn’t accept this “bread of life” teaching. Let’s read about Jesus’ commissioning of the Twelve:

Matthew 10:1-8 Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits so they could cast them out and heal every kind of disease and sickness. (2) Now these are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter), and Andrew his brother; James son of Zebedee and John his brother; (3) Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; (4) Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (5) Jesus sent out these twelve, instructing them as follows: "Do not go to Gentile regions and do not enter any Samaritan town. (6) Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (7) As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

And Jesus continues on in that chapter giving instructions to the Twelve.

John 6:67-69 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You don't want to go away too, do you?" (68)

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. (69) We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God!"

This was a big test of loyalty, and the twelve passed the test. By this time, Peter really got it. He understood, and we assume he was speaking for the rest of the apostles, except for Judas.

John 6:70-71 Jesus replied, "Didn't I choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is the devil?" (71) (Now he said this about Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for Judas, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.)

Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. Why did Judas stay? I doubt if he really accepted what Jesus said and who He was. It may have been for financial gain - he was the manager of the money for the group, and most think he embezzled money for himself. Since Jesus called Judas the devil here, we can assume that Satan was already controlling him, though he would not be fully possessed until later (Luke 22:3)

The choosing Jesus is talking about here is not about salvation, but about discipleship and relationship. Why did He choose Judas as one of the Twelve? That's a hard question to answer fully. But Jesus knew Judas' heart, and that given a chance, he would betray Him. And Jesus chose to use that to accomplish His purpose, to go to the cross.