

## **JOHN 6:51-58 -Jesus explosive statement**

### KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Do you remember last week's SURPRISE statement from Jesus?

"... and the bread that I shall give IS MY FLESH FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD."

Was Jesus speaking SYMBOLICALLY, or did he REALLY mean those words?

A recent survey among American Catholics, reported that between 60 to 70 per cent of them do not believe in the REAL presence of Jesus in the Eucharistic Bread.

To these Catholics the presence of Jesus in the consecrated Bread is ONLY SYMBOLIC!

Our two thousand year plus Tradition tells us the opposite:

When the priest at Mass pronounces the words of consecration as given by Jesus at the last supper, the bread and the wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not symbolically, but REALLY.

This belief has been with us Catholics from the time of the Apostles!

As we continue examining the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, let us see how the crowd reacts to Jesus' new kind of teaching on the "Bread of Life" which he says is his "Flesh for the life of the world."

As they listen they feel disturbed by his words: "Unless you eat my Flesh and drink my Blood you will have no life in you" (v.52).

"And the bread that I shall give is MY FLESH for the life of the world!"

Many are feeling restless, they begin to grumble. It's a normal reaction to the mysterious teaching they are hearing for the first time.

Nevertheless some feel attracted by Jesus magnetic words. They wish to be open minded, to hear the rest, and to see what will happen.

How would you have reacted if you had been there at the time of Jesus?

Jesus does not change tune, but continues on the same line: "ANYONE WHO DOES EAT MY FLESH AND DRINK MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE."

"...FOR MY FLESH IS REAL FOOD AND MY BLOOD IS REAL DRINK." (v.54-55).

Six times in a row Jesus repeats these explosive sentences (v.53-58).

What is remarkable is that he is very serious about it. He speaking his TRUTH! This is no figure of speech! It is not a mistake. Everyone heard him!

In fact what happens next proves the fact that Jesus was NOT SPEAKING SYMBOLICALLY!

When people begin to argue among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus reconfirms his teaching as TRUE.

After hearing this response, "many of his disciples went away and accompanied him no more" (v.66).

Jesus was left alone with only the twelve apostles. These remain silent and shocked at what they have just witnessed.

What will Jesus do?

Jesus turns to the Twelve: "WHAT ABOUT YOU, DO YOU WANT TO GO AWAY TOO?" (v.67).

Peter answers for everyone: "LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE, AND WE BELIEVE; WE HAVE COME TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD!" (v.68).

Incredible! Jesus was willing to be left alone, but he would not change his teaching; he did not call back those who left, those who could not accept a supernatural teaching.

The apostles that chose to remain with Jesus, surely could not yet understand Jesus' real presence in the Bread and Wine. But they knew that they could trust Jesus' WORD. That was enough for them. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR US.