

# JESUS AND “HARD SAYINGS”

By Keith Greer

During the period of time of Christ's personal teaching, He was not always understood by His disciples. Many of the lessons He taught them never took hold until after His ascension back to heaven.

“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” {John 6:53} How did his disciples react to this particular teaching? “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” {John 6:60} We can read the account in Matthew 26:26-29 and know He is speaking of the Lord's Supper where we remember the “body and blood” of our Lord!

“But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Jesus said to him, assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times. Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples. “ {Matthew 26:32-35} Do you think that Peter and the other disciples were sincere in their unwavering commitment to Him? Yet, we read Peter denied Him and they all fled! {Matthew 26:56-75} **Did they really understand?**

“Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days? But He was speaking of the temple of His body.” {John 2:19-21} What was their reaction to this grand fulfillment of His promise? “And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.” {Luke 24:11} **Did they understand?**

Christ, having finished His Father's work, prepared to go back to heaven. He gathered His disciples to give some final instructions. In a few days they will “receive power from on High.” What was their reaction to this promise soon to be fulfilled? “Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” {Acts 1:6} **Did they understand?**

It seems that His disciples never put together the lessons from the Master. Christ, during His time with them, was trying to prepare them for His departure from this earth. Yet, remember one of the things the Comforter would do? “... He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” {John 14:26} Then they would understand!

Now before you're too harsh in blaming the disciples for failing to understand the truths the Master revealed to them – what about today? Do God's people do much better?

“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate...And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” {Matthew 19:6,9} Pretty simple language and easy to understand – right?

Among the brotherhood today there are no less than sixteen different positions on MDR. Things like: Alien amenable to law of Christ, desertion grounds for divorce and remarriage, adultery frees both parties, one can divorce so long as they don't remarry along with many others. God said marriage is for life and the only exception is for the grounds of sexual immorality. Why do we have all these different positions then? Simple – men don't like God's answers and man has made a mess of marriage. Seeking remedies for the liberal divorce courts and how to justify all these divorces and new marriages! Some things never change!

By the actions, teachings, and conclusions reached, many seem to be as the disciples of old! A sad point of the truth, God is not sending us "another Comforter!" \*\*\*