

Distorted

Keep Your Options Open LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Commitment to the singular truth of Jesus brings confidence and contentment.

Key Scriptures

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth ... 2 Timothy 4:3-4

"Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'" John 6:28-29

"At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" John 6:41-42

"Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'" John 6:53-54

"On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?'" John 6:60

"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.'" John 6:68-69

We've bought the lie that more options are better and variety equals value.

Start talking.

- Why do we like options?
- Describe a time when you were overwhelmed by options.

Start thinking.

- Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. How have you seen this verse played out in today's world?
- Read John 6:28-29. Why did the Jews assume there were more "works" to be done? What does that reveal about their world view?
- In what way is "belief" a work?
- Read John 6:41-42. What was the true reason behind their "grumbling"?
- Read John 6:53-54. How would you sum up the point Jesus is trying to make with this metaphor?
- Read John 6:60. Why was this so hard for them to accept?

Start sharing.

- In what ways are you tempted to add on to the singular work of believing in Jesus?
- How do you guard against those things?
- Read John 6:68-69. How have you experienced the words of Christ bringing life?

Start doing.

- Confess the ways you have complicated the simplicity of belief in Jesus.
- Describe one way belief in Jesus can bring simplicity to your life this week.

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I admit I am often distracted by the constant noise of "more is better". From how I live out my faith, to the expectations I place on others, I confess I regularly end up complicating the simplicity of your message. Help me to clear away confusion and the ever-increasing options of modern life and instead refocus on belief in you and you alone.