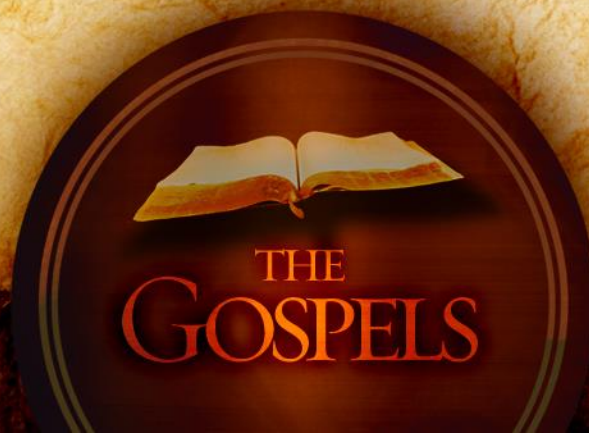




JOHN

Light of the World





INTRODUCTION:

1. The events of John 6 took place over a period of two days, and the chapter is divided into two sections.
 - A. The PICTURE of the Bread of Life (6:1-21)
 - B. The PRESENTATION of the Bread of Life (6:22-71)



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 - B. The PRESENTATION of the Bread of Life (6:22-71)
2. Jesus' teaching on the bread of life *divides into three parts* corresponding to *the three types of hearers*.
 - A. The first part (vss. 22-40): “the crowd” (vs. 22)
 - B. The second part (vss. 41-59): “the Jews” (vs. 41)
 - C. The third part (vss. 60-71): “his disciples” (vs. 60)



INTRODUCTION:

3. What I really want you to notice is the **popularity** of Jesus at the beginning of chapter 6. Compare it with end (vss. 60-71): “offense”, “desertion”, “betrayal”.
4. What happened? ANSWER: Jesus spoke the Truth! *The discourse* on “the bread of life” is actually a *dialogue* between Christ and the people—especially the religious leaders (“the Jews”). As Jesus spoke truth to the culture of His day (to 1st cent. Judaism; A.D. 26-30), we observe ***four responses*** to the Lord’s teaching.



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JESUS SPOKE THE TRUTH (vss. 22-62).

1. **Seeking** (6:14, 22-40) – “the crowd”
2. **Grumbling** (6:41-51) – “the Jews”
3. **Arguing** sharply (6:52-59) – “the Jews”
4. **Offended** (6:60-63) – “his disciples”

It was not that Jesus' teaching was not hard to understand, but hard to accept. It was the truth that Jesus spoke that offended them.



JESUS SPOKE THE TRUTH (vss. 22-63).

What was “the truth” that Jesus spoke that offended them so?

1. The incarnation (God became flesh; see Phil. 2:5-8)

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

PHILIPPIANS

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!”



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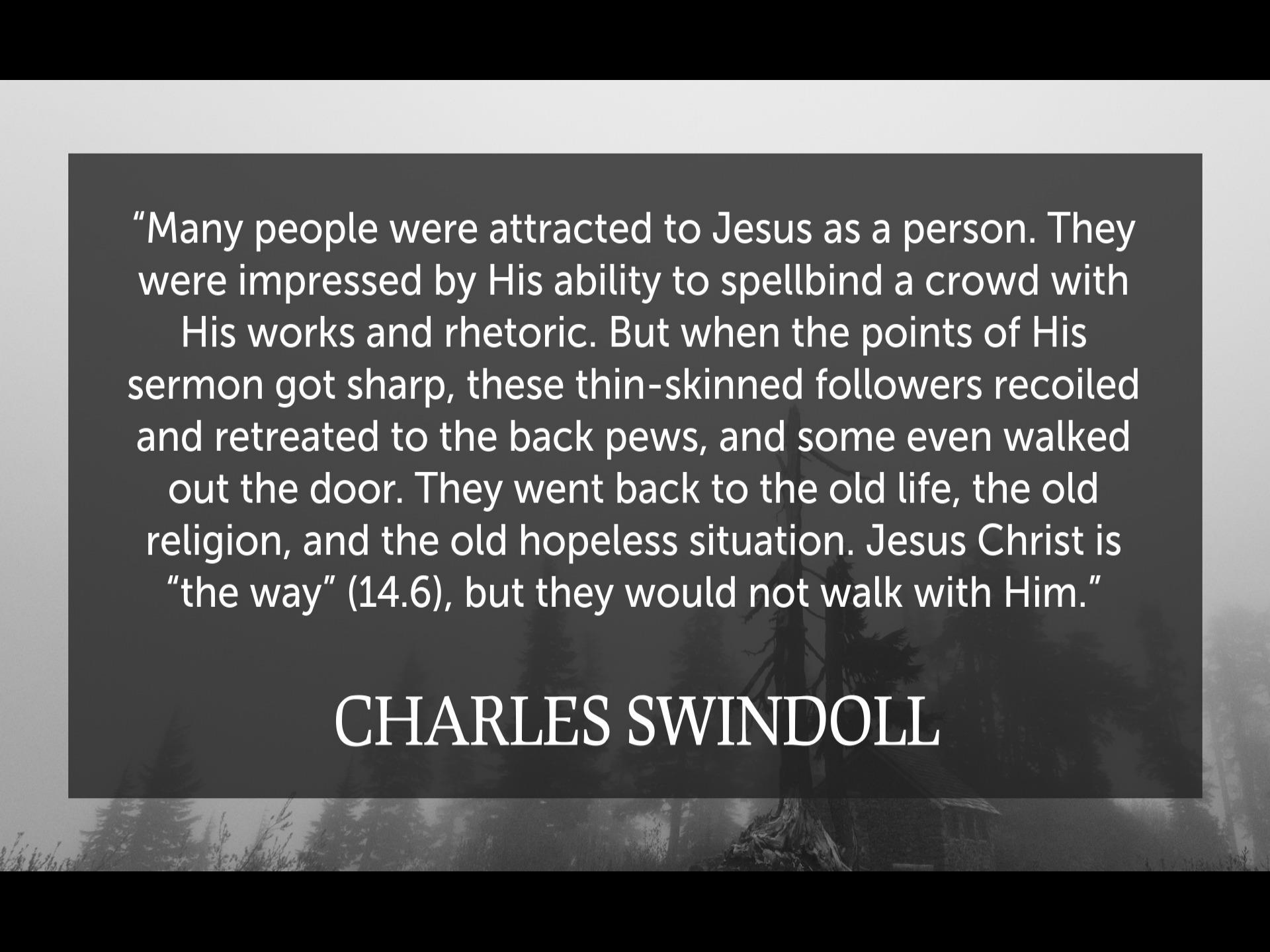
1. The incarnation (God became flesh; see Phil. 2:5-8)
2. His substitutionary atonement (vs. 51b)
3. “Eat my Flesh” and “Drink my Blood” (vss. 48-58)
4. “I AM the bread of life” (vss. 35, 48; cp. 8:58)
5. The inability of the natural man to contribute to saving themselves (see 36-37, 44, 64-65)



JESUS LOST “HIS DISCIPLES” (vss. 60-71)

Note three attitudes that parallel responses we see today.

1. Open defection (vss. 60-66)



“Many people were attracted to Jesus as a person. They were impressed by His ability to spellbind a crowd with His works and rhetoric. But when the points of His sermon got sharp, these thin-skinned followers recoiled and retreated to the back pews, and some even walked out the door. They went back to the old life, the old religion, and the old hopeless situation. Jesus Christ is “the way” (14.6), but they would not walk with Him.”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

“John made clear that the defection was no surprise to Jesus. The unbelief of the disciples had been evident to Him from the very first, and His difficult utterances had been spoken for the avowed purpose of disclosing their true position. Their inability to persist in faith apart from the ‘gift’ of the Father (vs. 65) was His explanation of unbelief. Unbelief is natural to the sinning heart; saving faith is the gift of God.”

Merrill C. Tenney



JESUS LOSES “HIS DISCIPLES” (vss. 60-71)

Three attitudes that parallel responses we see today:

1. Open Defection (60-61, 66)
2. Firm Determination (67-69)

MATTHEW 16:15-17

MATTHEW

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”



JESUS LOSES “HIS DISCIPLES” (vss. 60-71)

Three attitudes that parallel responses we see today:

1. Open Defection (60-61, 66)
2. Firm Determination (67-69)
3. Subtle Deception (70-71)

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Two Theological Observations and One Challenge



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1. John 6 reminds us of the human condition apart from Christ: Dead, Blind, Sinful, Bad, Helpless!
2. John 6 reminds us of what God is doing today in this world (vss. 38-40). He's building His Church.

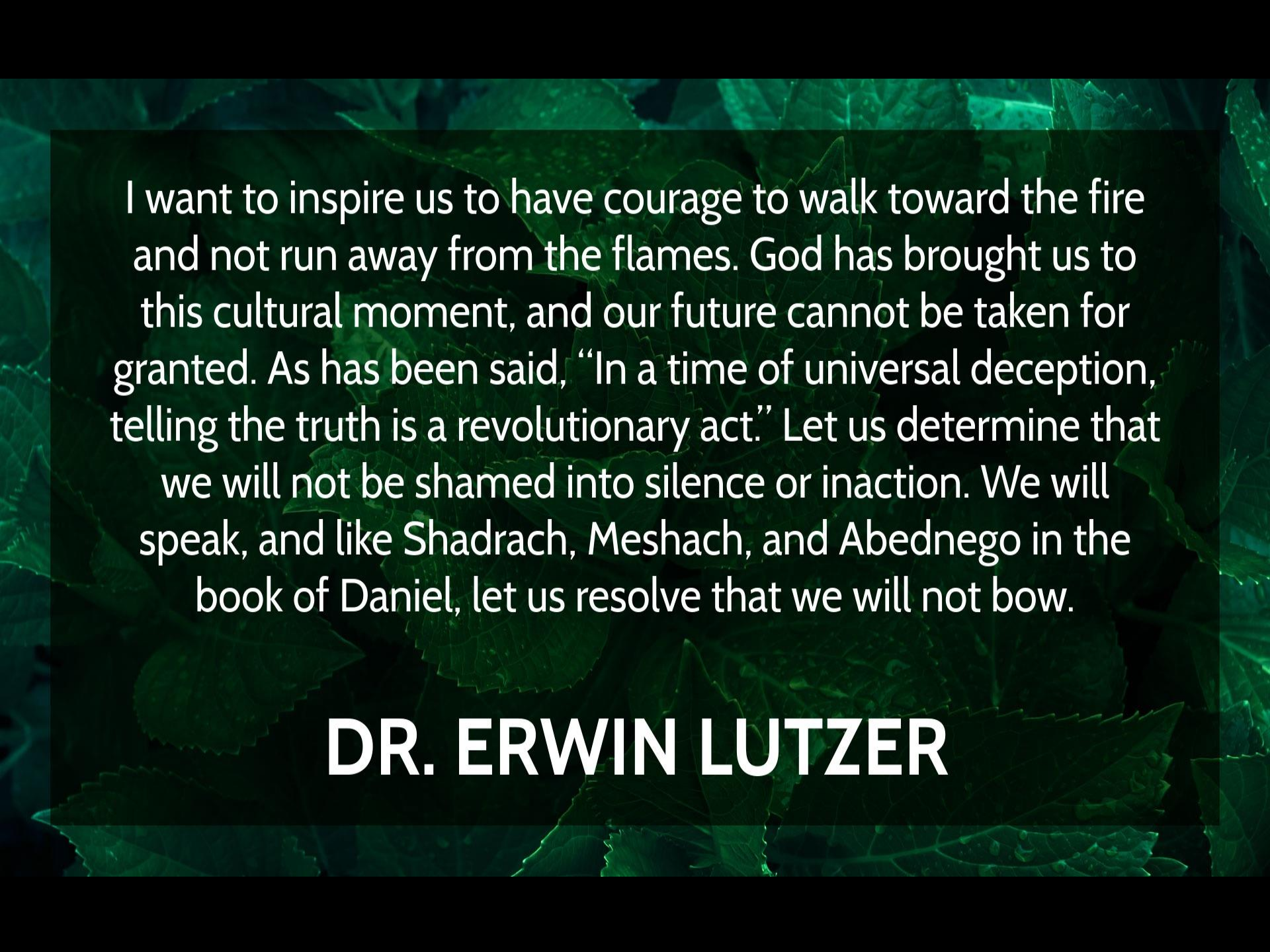




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3. John 6 reminds us of the Church's responsibility today. To speak God's truth to the culture.



I want to inspire us to have courage to walk toward the fire and not run away from the flames. God has brought us to this cultural moment, and our future cannot be taken for granted. As has been said, “In a time of universal deception, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” Let us determine that we will not be shamed into silence or inaction. We will speak, and like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the book of Daniel, let us resolve that we will not bow.

DR. ERWIN LUTZER