

**Faith is trusting in Jesus words – even when they are mysterious and hard  
(Jn 6.41-71; 03-21-21am)**

For context and understanding of Jesus' hard saying:

1. Jesus was Master Communicator – frequently used stories (parables) & word-pictures (bread of life)
2. Statements should not be taken literally – using physical illustrations to teach about spiritual realities
  - a. There is a totality of commitment called for when one comes to Christ
  - b. There is an implied reference to Jesus' death on the cross in His language of flesh and blood
  - c. There is also a reasonable hint about Lord's Supper in words about eating and drinking

**Central thought:**

Saving faith will not understand everything about Jesus, but it will understand that Jesus is the way to God.

**I. The scandalous sayings of Jesus reinforce the supremacy of God & the mystery of salvation (41-59)**

- A. God works; man believes (44-47)
- B. Jesus brings life & Jesus is life (48ff)
- C. God gives life; man receives life (56-57)

**II. Hard sayings of Jesus separate true followers from self-centered followers (60-71)**

- A. Hard sayings clarify what real faith involves (60-65)

Implications:

1. If we are offended because Jesus sets the rules for genuine faith, we risk rejecting Jesus (60-62)
  2. No one is able to acquire eternal life on his/her own – God is the giver of eternal life (63)
  3. All followers are not true believers (64-65)
- B. Hard sayings separate true believers from hangers-on (66-71)                      True believers . . .
    1. Trust Jesus' words – even when they are mysterious and hard to comprehend (66-67)
    2. Will not walk away when Jesus' teaching are hard to understand or hard to apply (cf. 1 Jn 2.19)
    3. Recognize Jesus is the only way to God (68-69)
    4. Come to understand that their salvation is a gift from God

Two applications:

1. Don't limit your faith to what you can figure out by your logic – much of the gospel is mystery
2. If you desire to genuinely follow Jesus, you must be prepared to accept hard truths on faith