

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

July 22, 2007

To whom shall we go?

by David King

"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'" (Jn. 6:66-69).

This exchange between Jesus and His apostles occurred following the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd continued to follow Jesus for awhile, waiting for more free food. But instead of food, Jesus gave them a strange sermon on seeking more permanent sustenance—something about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The multitude was not interested in all this metaphysical stuff, so they left.

It must have been a bitter disappointment to the apostles to see all their hard work of the past several weeks fade away to nothing, especially considering that it was this weird sermon of Jesus that drove them away. Truth is, the apostles themselves were probably scratching their heads trying to figure out what Jesus was talking about. Judging from His question to them, Jesus apparently had some concern that even they would quit.

But the apostles did not quit. Peter's response to Jesus' question reveals the heart of a true disciple of Christ: "To whom shall we go? **You** have the words of eternal life." This was not first time the apostles did not understand something Jesus taught, nor would it be the last. They frequently did not "get it," and Jesus had to repeat some concepts over and over.

Some lessons they never did fully grasp until after His death and resurrection. But regardless of their limited understanding, they continued to cling to Him, convinced that He was their best hope of making sense of a crazy world.

"To whom shall we go?" is a question that still confronts followers of Jesus today, especially when His religion appears difficult or inadequate. People struggle to understand the deeper teachings of the Bible. They become disenchanted with the strife and hypocrisy among fellow believers. Or they grow tired of a faith that has become stale and boring.

Eventually the temptation arises to do what the multitude did: just walk away. Some go to Buddhism, some to Islam, some to Scientology, some to atheism—there are plenty of options out there to satisfy everyone's desire for something "different." Many simply reject spirituality entirely, choosing a life of crass materialism that lives for the present and refuses even to think about spiritual matters.

But as they eventually learn, all these alternatives have their own shortcomings and frustrations. So their search for meaning in life goes off in yet another direction.

Which brings us back to Peter's question: To whom shall we go? Whatever difficulties a Christian encounters in his faith, the foundation of that faith is a bedrock that no alternative can match: Jesus is the Son of God, demonstrated by His death and resurrection, and He alone has words of eternal life. Even if we struggle to understand and apply those words, He is better than anything else out there.