

## STUDY 6

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# AM I ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

READ: John 6:60-69

MEMORIZE: John 6:68-69

Have you ever been walking along a bush path and had the unhappy feeling that you might be on the wrong track? Such a situation makes you feel uncertain, slows down your progress and may even make you turn back to find another better way. In order to get to the right place, you must either decide you are on the wrong track and turn back or else become completely certain that you are going in the right direction.



The same is true in discipleship. In order to keep going forwards, you must come to the place where you are completely sure that you are on the right track, that Jesus is the only way.

### 1. There are many roads

The way of Christian discipleship is only one road among many. All around us today there are many other ways we can choose to follow. There are many other voices calling to us. And each one promises the answer to life. There is the way of past traditions and customs; the way of education and learning; the way of humanism and confidence in our own powers of self-improvement; the way of materialism, money and possessions; the way of pleasure and excitement. Then there are other religious systems: Hinduism, Buddhism, other Eastern religions, and the 'New Age Movement' which combines many different philosophies together. There are many roads and many voices calling, "This is the way!" Can I be sure that the road I am on as a follower of Christ is the right one? Could so few be right and so many be wrong? What a tragedy to spend my whole life following a way that in the end leaves me empty, unsatisfied and lost!

### 2. There is only one way

Jesus made it quite clear that there are not many roads that lead to God. There is only one way to life - a narrow and hard way that few people find (Matthew 7:14). This is the way of Jesus, the way of discipleship. There is no other way (John 14:6). There is no other name that can bring salvation (Acts 4:12). At first great crowds followed Jesus. But when they learned that the way of discipleship was hard, one by one they turned away and no longer followed Him. Jesus turned to the twelve who remained and asked them, "Will you also go away?" What would their answer be?

Jesus never forces us to be His disciples. He leaves the decision up to us. But if we would become His true disciples, a time will come when we have to decide, "Am I on the right track or not? Will I go all the way with Christ or turn back? Will I go on or give up?" There can be no escape from this decision. If I am unsure, I will be half-hearted and uncertain. I will always be looking this way and that for a way that may be better. I will easily give up when hard times come. Had the twelve disciples come to the conviction that Jesus was the only way? There was no doubt about it! They were absolutely certain! They knew they were on the right track (vs 68 -69). Are you just as certain?

### QUESTIONS

1. There are many ways open to us today and many voices calling us. What are three of the strongest influences controlling the lives of people living around you? What do these ways promise?

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2. Think of the way of materialism (faith in money). Do you think material things will help you find fulness in life? What problems and dangers can they bring? (See Matthew 6:24, Mark 10:23-25, 1 Timothy 6:6-11).

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3. Think of the way of humanism (faith in man). Do you think science and technology, self-improvement, and trying to do good, will solve our deepest problems and help us make a better world? What weaknesses and dangers can you see in this? (See Jeremiah 17:5-6,9 and Romans 8:7-8)

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4. Think about the 'New Age Movement' (faith in religious philosophies). Do you think a combination of eastern religions, Christianity, astrology, psychology, natural medicines, and belief in 'nature' will help us find the answer to life? What does the Bible clearly teach us?

John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 2:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Have any of the above beliefs or other ways of life had a control or influence over you in the past? In what ways? What about now?

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6. How convinced are you that Jesus is the only way? Do you still have some doubts, fears, uncertainties? How will these affect your discipleship? How can you get to the same position of certainty that Peter expressed in John 6:68-69?

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