"TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?" (John 6:60-71)

Introduction:

- 1. Jesus took His disciples across the Sea of Galilee to rest for a time.
 - a. A great number of people saw where He went and followed.
 - b Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish.
- 4. Jesus realized the people were coming to make Him king by force.
 - a. He sent the apostles across the sea by boat.
 - b. He came after dark walking on the water.
- 5. The next day, the crowds also crossed over and found Jesus.
 - a. Jesus said: "You are following me because I fed you, not because of the miracles."
 - b. He warned: "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life."
 - c. He taught that He is "the Bread of Life" and that they must "eat His flesh" to have everlasting life.
 - d. The people said: "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
 - "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him."
 - e. Jesus asked the twelve apostles, "Do you also want to go away?"
 - f. Simon Peter replied: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life?"
- 6. Many today clamor and compete for us to follow them.
- 7. To whom shall we go if we want to have eternal life?

Discussion:

- I. SHALL WE GO TO THE GREAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE WORLD?
 - A. Mohammed is followed by one fourth of the world's population.
 - 1. He was born in Mecca in 570 and died in 632.
 - 2. He taught there is only one god whose name is Allah.
 - 3. His teachings are found in the Quran, the Hadith, and Shariah.
 - 4. His religion was spread by the sword and still seeks to conquer the world.

- 5. In Islam there is no Saviour, no grace, and no assurance.
- B. Siddharta Guatama is followed by hundreds of millions today.
 - 1. He is better known as Buddha which means "enlightened."
 - 2. He was born in Nepal in the sixth century before Christ.
 - 3. He renounced his throne, wealth and family to seek salvation.
 - 4. He abused his body by starvation, exposure and filth.
 - 5. He achieved "enlightenment" one day while meditating under a bodhi tree.
 - 6. He taught the way to salvation is "The Middle Way," between asceticism and fleshly indulgence.
- C. Moses is acknowledged as one of the greatest religious leaders.
 - 1. He was called by GOD to lead His people out of slavery.
 - 2. GOD revealed His Law through Moses at Mt. Sinai.
 - 3. The Ten Commandments were superior to any moral code ever given up to that time.
 - 4. Moses pointed to One coming Who was greater than he:

"The Lord your GOD will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear" (Deut. 18:15; Acts 3:22,23).

II. SHALL WE GO TO THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS OF THE WORLD?

- A. Paul encountered the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers in Athens (Acts 17:18, 19).
 - 1. Epicurus founded his school in Athens about 300 BC.
 - a. Their philosophy was: "Let us eat and drink (and be merry) for tomorrow we die" (1 Cor. 15:32).
 - b. They were hedonists who lived for worldly pleasure.
 - 2. The Stoics were founded by a philosopher named Zeno about 300 BC.
 - a. All things are determined by unvarying natural law.
 - b. A wise man will live by reason and will be indifferent to the external world of pain and passion.
- B. The failure of philosophy is that it comes from the mind of man.

- 1. "A philosopher seeking after truth is like a blind man in a dark alley at midnight trying to find a black cat."
- 2. Human philosophy offers no comfort in life or hope in death.

III. SHALL WE GO TO JESUS CHRIST?

- A. Jesus made the most astounding claims any man has ever made.
 - 1. He claimed to be GOD.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58,59).

2. He claimed to be the only way to GOD.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

3. He claimed to be the resurrection and the life:

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though He may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25, 26).

- 4. He claimed He would be the Judge of all mankind at the last day (Matt. 25:31,32).
- 5. If any other made such claims he would be counted insane but no one would say that of Jesus, not even His enemies.
- B. He lived the purest life any man has ever lived.
 - 1. No charge of wrongdoing was ever substantiated against Him.
 - 2. False witnesses were sought to condemn Him (Matt. 26:59,60).
 - 3. Judas, His betrayer, confessed: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood" (Matt. 27:3,4).
 - 4. Even Pilate affirmed Jesus was just: "I am innocent of the blood of this just person" (Matt. 27:24).

Conclusion:

- 1. Peter said: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).
- 2. Our response is to "repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).