

Allegiance Or Desertion

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him”, John 6:66.

This took place at the start of our Lord’s third year of ministry. Many of His followers would have seen the Lord’s power to supply the needs of many people

The water made wine, John 2:1–11. The nobleman’s son healed, John 4:46–54. The catch of fish, Luke 5:4–9. The demoniac healed, Mark 1:23–28. The leper healed, Matthew 8:2–4, etc.

Many of those whom the signs impressed now walked away from following Christ because of their unbelief.

Many today see the signs, healings taking place in front of them on the TV. With these people it is not a case of believing what you see, but a case of watching a show.

Many today see the signs, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis. Many, if they are in the immediate area, will either try to run, or just freeze in terror. For others, watching what is happening on the TV, it becomes as a film – make-believe.

Neither of the above groups was any different from the people who turned and left Jesus.

They had heard of Jesus. Many would have heard His Voice. Others would have read of what Jesus preached. Others would have heard the Name ‘Jesus’.

The human eyes saw, but the heart did not receive.

Over the last two thousand years the Church has passed through the valleys. It has climbed to great heights.

In parts of the world the Church has risen from the darkness of the valley floor to great heights where it became a bright beacon.

Many joyously received the treats that were being offered, not just the signs, but also the Word that pointed the way along the road of salvation. Others were too busy grabbing at the visuals, and did not take the time to grab at the essentials, the directions to keep receiving the blessings that they were absorbing visually.

They could not see when the false teachers came in. They saw their works. When they heard the new gospel, understanding it was easy. It was a gospel of love and sin overlooked. There was not one mention of REPENTANCE. It was a ‘FEEL GOOD’ gospel.

Deceivers come wearing a cloak of pretence, but their message is

contrary to the Word of God. It is a weak word that had been diluted, and did not have the power of salvation.

Thus those who walked away from the Lord walked away from their potential salvation

When the Lord asked if the disciples would also leave, Peter, speaking for the other disciples as much as himself, said, "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God", John 6:68-69.

The disciples understood that repentance, salvation, and ministry to those in need were all part and parcel on the one package.