

Will Ye Also Go Away?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

John 6:66-69 "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 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."

When Jesus asked the twelve apostles if they would also go away he had to have been saddened to see the others go. He was saying, "Will you follow the crowd, or will you stay on the right path?" There were a lot of disciples who decided that the way of Christ was too rough for them. Many people feel safer to go along with the majority, thinking they must be right since so many think that way.

Others know what they believe and will stick to it, no matter what, or how many, others may say. They will stand against ridicule, oppression, and everything else for what they believe in. Some things are worth

holding to, while others are better to reject. The wisdom is in knowing which to support. A great multitude can, and have, been wrong, while a few have made the right decision. In Numbers 13 & 14 for example, two stood for the word and promise of God while ten didn't believe God. All of the ten died while the two faithful witnesses lived to see the promised land.

So shall it be in the future. Those who doubt God and refuse to walk with him will perish, while those who believe God and walk with him will enter heaven. It comes down to this very simple fact - we either believe God or we don't. Why did those walk away from Jesus instead of walking with him? Simple, they didn't believe in him, or think that it would be worth the effort. They left him there and went where? Not to heaven that's for sure. You can't go without Jesus. The young ruler who was told to sell what he had and give to the poor, then to come and follow Jesus also went away. Why? He wanted eternal life, but not enough that he would give up his wealth. The bible says that he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions. He will be even more sorrowful on the day of judgment. To lose one's wealth is one thing, but to lose one's life and soul is much more serious.

Today people go away for a variety of reasons. Some become discouraged when things do not go as they would like for them too. Others are tempted by things and are lured away by their lust for them. People who don't make an effort to grow in their knowledge of God become stagnant and wither as fruit on the vine. We are supposed to grow in grace and knowledge, but that can't happen if we don't pray, trust God, and read his word.

Those who talk to the Lord and walk with him daily will go with him, not away from him. No one has to go away from God, and no one will who have placed their faith in him and are determined to stay on the path of righteousness. We all have times when the path is hard and we are weary, but we know that with Jesus is life and without him is only death and hell. He never said that life would be easy, but he did promise that he would be there for us if we would trust in him.

I suppose that another question might be, "If you go away, then where will you go?" The scriptures only tell of heaven and hell. Walking with Jesus will lead you to heaven, but walking through this life without him will lead to hell. As someone said, "You can't live wrong and die right." How true that is.

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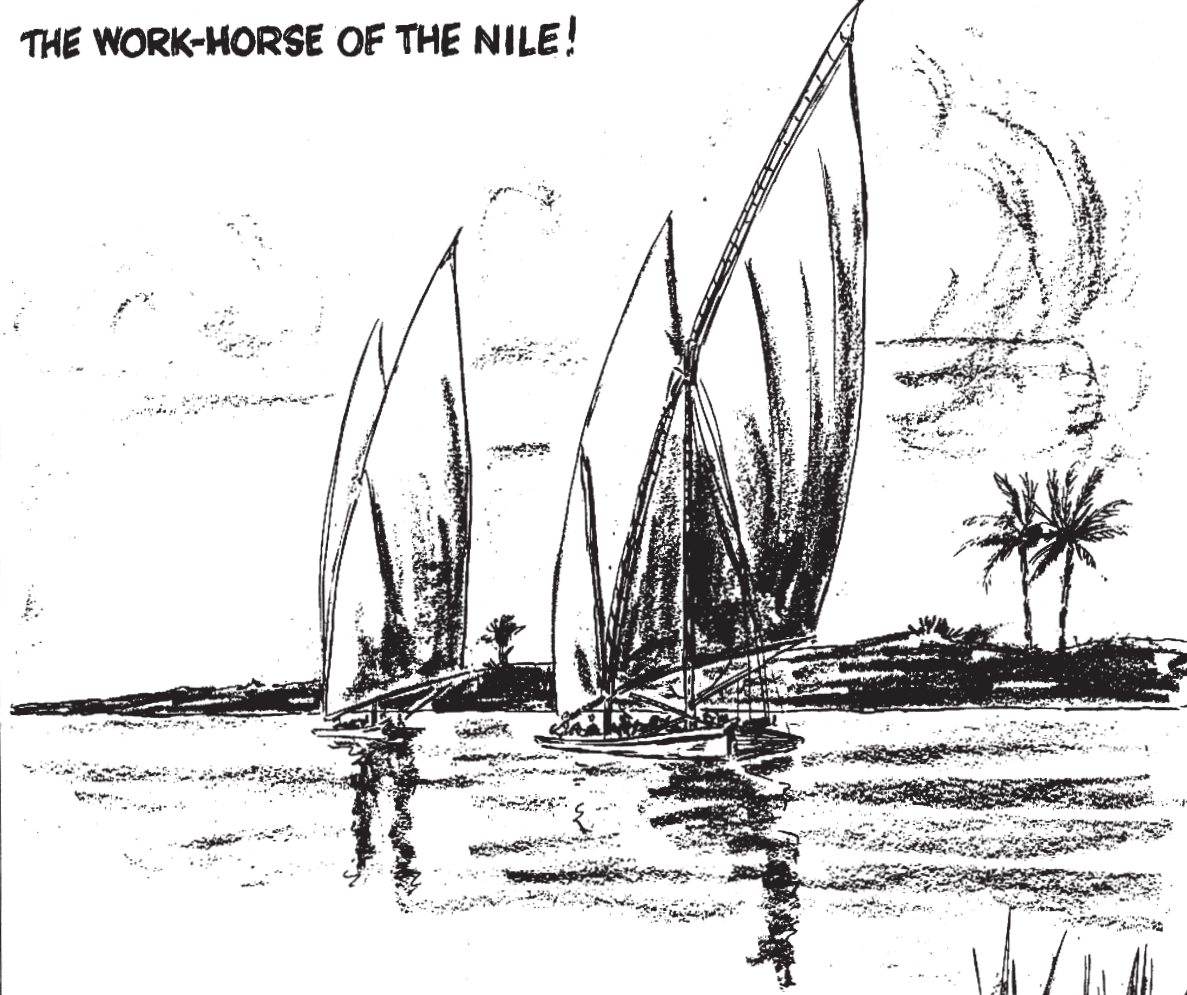
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