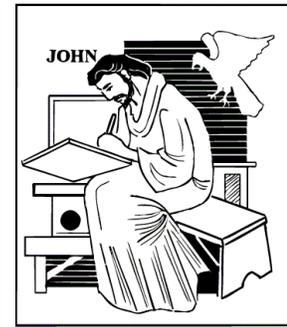
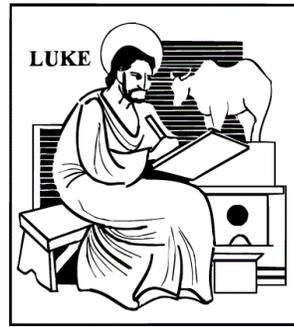
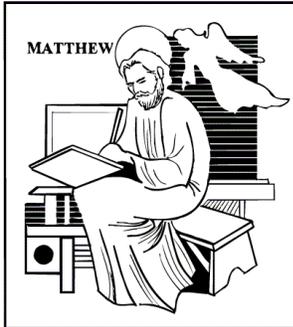


## Breaking Open the Word



August 23, 2015 -21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 122 Gospel [Jn 6:60-69](#)

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** The announcement of the Eucharist cracked His followers wide open. No wonder there has been such a division of sects in Christianity when each man decides for himself whether he will accept a segment of the circle of Christ's truth or the whole circle. Our Lord Himself was responsible for this; He asked a faith too much for men; His doctrine was too sublime. If He had been only a little more worldly-minded, if He had only allowed His words to be treated as figures of speech, and if He had only been less imperative He might have been more popular. - Fulton Sheen

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### Spiritual Questions

1. Can Jesus if, He was God, allow people to stop following Him because they misunderstood his teaching?
2. How much wisdom is in Peter's confession?
3. How had they come to believe that Jesus was the Holy one of God?
4. What role does popularity play in whether something is true?
5. What role does one's ability to understand play in whether or not something is true?