



Are You Gonna Go My Way?

August 21, 2022

John 6:60-68 (MSG)

Connect

- Lenny Kravitz's *Are You Gonna Go My Way* was the Broadway member submitted song of focus for week seven of our sermon series, "*Then Sings My Soul: Finding Sacred Hope in Secular Music.*" If you have familiarity with the song, speak to your memories of it. Pull up the song on the streaming source of your choosing and play it for the group. Share initial impressions. Name what sticks out to you and why.

Engage

- Read *John 6:60-68 (MSG)*. Check out this passage from Eugene Peterson's *The Message* translation of the Bible. What stands out to you in the reading? Why do you think that strikes you in this season of your life?
- What do you perceive to be some of Jesus' hardest teachings? Why?
- This moment in the journey of Jesus with the disciples was pivotal. Many were falling away. Following became too challenging. Do you struggle to stay on track as a follower of Jesus? Have you ever wondered, "*Should I stay or should I go?*" Describe some pivotal moments in your own walk of discipleship.
- "*We make our decisions and our decisions make us.*" Do you agree with this statement? Discuss the implications.
- In this pericope (*or passage of scripture*), Jesus says that willpower alone isn't enough. He then speaks about the life and work of the Spirit. Some have said, "*Trust like it's all up to God and work like it's all up to you.*" How does this sentiment strike you?
- As the inner circle of disciples was all that remained, they say to Jesus, "*Where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" There were other theologies and philosophies in that day that would have spoken of eternal life. Why do they feel differently about Jesus in this regard? When it comes to your decision to follow Jesus, what is your most compelling '*why*'? Why do you follow Jesus?

Next Steps

- Download Lenny Kravitz's *Are you Gonna Go My Way* and listen to it several times through this week. Each time, pull out words, phrases or ideas as you hear it and reflect further on what is being said. Hear the lyrics as if coming from the perspective of Jesus. Feel the music and discern how it makes you feel. What of this song might shape you moving forward in a positive way?

Pray

"The sacred and secular dance together at all times, God. Thank you for moving through a lyric or a riff in a way that gets right to our souls. Music is so often the direct beat of our spirits. Keep us leaning in and living eyes and ears forward. Help us claim our definitive 'why' when it comes to answering your question: "Are you gonna go my way?" Amen."