

## Drinking Tea and Causing Riots

A man asked a friend, who had become a bishop, how things were going. "I'm not sure," replied the bishop. "Everywhere St. Paul went, he caused a riot. Everywhere I go, they pour tea."

In the sixth chapter of John, Jesus has been teaching the people as well as the disciples. He has fed the 5000 that had followed Him with the 2 loaves and 3 fish. It had not been easy for any of them! Everyone was hot and hungry and thirsty and tired and frustrated. But most were absolutely horrified when He said to "Eat my Body" and "Drink my Blood." They responded "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" (John 6:60) "After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him." (John 6:66) In using such graphic images, Jesus had forced them to DECIDE. Then He asked the remaining 12, "Do you also wish to go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" Peter understood that it is easier to drink tea but that they were called to cause riots, to follow the Lord.

Indeed, we have no idea how many times Jesus had to DECIDE about the hard future that faced Him, a future on the cross. He could have backed off and been a local rabbi or carpenter. Yet He was always obedient to His future. Even in the Garden, the night before His Crucifixion, when He prayed that the cup be taken from Him, He was obedient. Nobody understood better that it is easier to drink tea than to cause riots, to do the will of His father.

But what about us? At least every time we go to church and listen to God's Word and eat His body and drink His blood, we are called to DECIDE. Living the life to which God calls us is hard. Are we going to hear Jesus asking us "Do you also wish to go away?" And are we going to respond with Peter "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." It is easier to drink tea than to cause riots by doing the will of the Lord.

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