

“Let Us Alone”

Introduction. In Luke 4:34, Jesus traveled to Capernaum and met a man in the synagogue possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, “Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.” These demons wanted to go on plaguing this man and causing trouble.

People are called by Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:10) through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Today people who hear the gospel say, “Let us alone.” There are four reasons why people say this, and I can assure you that someone you know is using one of these reasons. Maybe what we can discuss today will change their minds.

I. People Say “Let Us Alone” Because They Are Satisfied

- A. The Jews at Antioch of Pisidia were satisfied in their religion without Christ (Acts 13:45-48).
- B. The Athenians were also satisfied in their outright idolatry (Acts 17:18, 23).
- C. Will we be satisfied with anything less than the truth?
 1. The eunuch was not satisfied, so he asked (Acts 8:30-39).
 2. The Bereans were not satisfied unless the scriptures stated it (Acts 17:11).
 3. Anything else is a perversion and will not save (Galatians 1:6-9).
- D. In our country, lots of people are satisfied being “spiritual” or “religious,” but not devoted seekers of truth. It is sad that they don’t think their life can be better with Christ as humanity’s true lesson.

II. People Say “Let Us Alone” Because They Are Afraid

- A. The rulers were afraid of His power (Mark 11:18).
- B. The rulers were afraid of the people (Matthew 21:46).
 1. They were afraid of what the people would do (John 9:22).
 2. They were afraid of what the people would say or think (John 12:42-43).
- C. The disciples were afraid to ask Jesus about His teaching because they had a lack of faith and understanding (Luke 9:45).
- D. We may be afraid to question beliefs that they have held all their lives: instrumental music, the legitimacy of the Catholic Church, the Holy Spirit leading the heart, Christ will reign for 1,000 years, perseverance of the saints, etc.

III. People Say “Let Us Alone” Because They Are Indifferent

- A. The chief priests were indifferent because of their own sins (Matthew 27:3-4).
- B. The scoffers were indifferent because of ignorance and faithlessness (2 Peter 3:3-4).
- C. Three of the churches of Asia were indifferent because of false doctrine and wealth (Revelation 2:14-16, 20-24; 3:14-17).
- D. Would God dare to punish some of us because we do not have the burning zeal concerning the Lord’s work that we should (Nehemiah 3:5; 13:11)? There is no middle ground of lukewarmness (Luke 11:23).

IV. People Say “Let Us Alone” Because They Think The Cost Is Too Great

- A. Jesus expects us to count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33).
- B. Some think the cost is too high.
 - 1. It can cost money (Matthew 19:20-22; 1 Timothy 6:6-10).
 - 2. It can cost time (Matthew 13:22).
- C. There are too many who want a “sale” when it comes to the gospel, like Felix (Acts 24:25). They want to wait until there is less to give up or lose before obeying Christ. But you can’t put a sale on sacrifice (Hebrews 13:15-16). Are you prepared to wager your place in eternity for a few extra enjoyments in this life?

Conclusion. Many feel they are better off being left alone. They do not have to worry about answering questions. They do not have to challenge ideas which they may have accepted all their life. They do not have to think or make any effort. They do not have to change.

However, we do not want to be left alone. In times of life’s sorrows, troubles and pains, we need someone to hold on to. In the hour of our departure from this life, Christ, who has walked this dark path ahead of us, can lead us safely through (Hebrews 6:20). In the resurrection, if we are left alone, we are helpless. In the judgment, where will we stand if we are outside of Christ? In eternity God will leave the disobedient alone in Hell (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Loving people will not leave you alone. That is why we talk to people about their lives and their decisions. Why not obey Christ now if you are here and need to do so?