

Unwilling **John 5:39**

Jn 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

We have a very strange situation in this verse. These religious people searched and studied the Scriptures diligently because that they thought they would have eternal life. Yet when the personification of eternal life came among them, they were not willing to come to Him that they might have eternal life.

It is like a man living out west where the towns are far apart complaining how he has to drive 75 miles the nearest town to buy his groceries, yet in his own town he lives right down the street from the local grocery store. You might say well there must be something wrong with the local store, but then there is a greater possibility that there is something wrong with the man.

So Jesus says that these religious people are seeking after eternal life but they will not come to the only one who can give it to them. When you think about that you want to ask the question, "Who are these people?"

I. Who are these people?

A. They are religious people.

1. This shows us that religious does not always translate into godly.
2. They had been inoculated.
 - a. Just like this nasal spray they have come out with for the N1H1 flu.
 - b. It gives you a weakened form of the disease so that you can not catch the real thing.
 - c. That is the danger of religion in America, people have gotten close enough to think they got it but they have never been infected with the real JESUS.
 - d. And it has been very successful, when even those who never read their Bibles, never go to church, pray only when they need something from God, think that they are OK.
 - e. They do not need the real Jesus.

B. They are foolish people.

1. In 1829 two men - Wilson and Porter - were convicted of robbing the United States mails, and sentenced to death by hanging. Three weeks before the time set for Wilson's execution, he was pardoned by President Andrew Jackson.

Strangely enough, Wilson refused the pardon. The case went to the Supreme Court (United States vs. George Wilson, 7 Peters' Report, page 150) and the court finally handed down its decision: "A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered; and if it is rejected, we have discovered no power in this court to force it upon him."

Most people would agree that Wilson was a fool for refusing to accept a pardon.

2. But what about these religious people who had been trained in God's word and gave every semblance of seeking God but when He shows up, they reject Him. What fools.
 3. But others are foolish like the boy who traded the cow for a pocket of magic beans.
 4. They have traded life for death.
 5. They have traded goodness for disaster.
 6. They have traded righteousness for corruption and shame.
- C. They are proud people.
1. Pride says I can do it my self.
 2. Pride says I am not in need but have all I want.
- D. Most are intellectuals.
1. 1 Cor 1:26-30 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. NKJV
 2. 1 Cor 3:18-21 18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." NKJV

II. Why they do not come to Jesus.

- A. They have been blinded by Satan to believe his lies.

1. 2Ti 2:26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
 2. Jn 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- B. They do not think that they need Jesus.
1. God loves everyone and will give us all a free pass, no matter how bad we treat His Son.
 2. There is not sin, or hell.
 3. This life is all there is, when you are dead your dead, so live it up, translated = just live for yourself, it doesn't matter how many people you have to destroy, just so you have your own way.
- C. They care only for this life.
1. Mt 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
 2. They are easily distracted by the things of this world.
- III. The consequences of not coming to Jesus
- A. Life or death
 - B. Peace or unrest
 - C. Light or darkness
 - D. Grace or justice
 - E. Mercy or condemnation

None of the blame for you not coming to Jesus rest on God. He has provided everything free of charge. You do not have to do some great deed. You do not have to give your life to come to Jesus. You do not need to become sinless to come to Jesus. All that you need to do is come.

Mt 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."