

They “Walked No More with Him”

Introduction:

There are many examples of “believers” that defect when the going doesn’t go as they would have it. What deep sorrow it must cause the Lord to see His sheep scatter when His word demands a change in their lives. Matthew records, “*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, as sheep not having a shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few*” (Matt. 9:36-37). Many of these “scattered sheep” came to believe on Jesus only to become ‘re-scattered’ after the Lord winnowed their faith. This lesson shall examine the idea of keeping the faith no matter what changes that faith may demand upon me.

I. Examples of individuals who ‘believed’ on Jesus yet would not follow His doctrine:

- A. The people during the days Jesus walked on the earth (Jn. 2:23-25; 6:2, 15, 27, 33-36, 48-54, 63, 68; 7:31-32, 40-44; 8:30-31, 45, 59; 10:40-42; Matt. 27:1, 17-25).
- B. The Corinthians (primarily Gentiles) (I Cor. 1:10-11; 11:17-19) (many walked no more with the faithful because it meant changing).
- C. The Jewish converts (Hebrews) (cf. Heb. 5:11).
- D. The disciples of Asia Minor (I Jn. 2:18ff).
- E. Diotrephes (III Jn. 9-11).

II. What caused these believers to fall away from the truth?

- A. A lack of fear and respect for God’s authority (Prov. 1:7).
- B. A desire to please self rather than God (Col. 2:20-23).
- C. Dissatisfaction with truth and a desire to help God’s word do more to one’s own liking:
 1. Cain not satisfied with God’s commands and so changed God’s laws (Gen. 4:1-5; Heb. 11:4).
 2. Korah not satisfied with God’s laws regarding the priests (Numb. 16:1-11).
 3. Saul not satisfied with God’s commands to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions (I Sam. 15:3, 13-14, 22-23).
 4. Judah was more interested in their own councils and teachers rather than the word of God (Jer. 7:24).
 5. The Jews (Rom. 10:1-3).

III. Today’s solution for all believers:

- A. Be content with the word of God (Phil. 4:10-13)!
- B. Don’t study to justify your sinful conduct or your sinful friend, study to present yourself approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15).

Conclusion:

Bible history reveals the fact that many have not been satisfied with God’s simple plan of eternal salvation. Some have tried to add to His plan while others take away from it. John warns against such behavior saying, “*I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book*” (Rev. 22:18-19). Let us be satisfied with God’s word and walk with Him in truth all the days of our lives!