

Why Following Christ Isn't the Choice of Everyone

Luke 11:33-36

Why does not everyone follow Christ? Why does your neighbor not? Why does your father not? Why does your philosophy teacher at the University not? Why do you not? Jesus gives us the answer here.

I. The problem in the person who rejects Christ is sight, not light.

The natural world's experience with light and darkness leads to an understanding of *spiritual* light and darkness. The best teachers will take things seen in nature and enlighten others' understanding of what is true spiritually. Jesus favorite metaphor was one of light. He used it frequently in His teaching. We, too, use the metaphor of light in our speech. We might say, "I was listening and I didn't understand; and then the light went on." *We intuitively know that light is a metaphor for our understanding.*

A. There's enough light in all of us to know that there is a God to whom we are accountable.

"All things become visible when exposed by the light" (Eph. 5:13). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. *Follow Me and never walk in darkness, but have the light of life*" (John 8:12). We have natural light in the work of creation; but we have supernatural light in the Word of revelation.

B. The light of Christ reveals life, but the rejection of Christ is darkness itself.

Jesus had been going throughout Galilee and Judea during his 42-month public ministry healing the sick, calming the storms, raising the dead, and doing what only God can do. The Pharisees accused Jesus of being Beelzebub, the prince of demons. But Jesus said He cast out Satan and demonic entities by "the Finger of God." The Pharisees demanded a sign. Jesus pointed to His resurrection.

C. Jesus calls those who reject the Light a "wicked generation" (Luke 11:29).

Why wicked? They were religious, not irreligious. They were moral, not immoral. Why wicked? They were blind to who Jesus was—the Lord and Savior of their lives.

II. The blind are willingly blind, then irrevocably blind.

"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in a cellar nor under a basket" (v. 33) except the one doing evil. "*Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil*" (John 3:19-20). The sinner who rejects Christ loves his sin. The sins of self-righteousness and self-sufficiency are far more seductive and more far captivating than the sins of immorality. It's often easier to reach an immoral person for the gospel than a moral one. It's often easier to reach an irreligious person for the gospel than a religious one. Religion and morality is more seductive than dissolution and wretchedness. This is what Jesus is saying in verse 33. "*You will not have Me because you love your way of life; you love your sins; you love yourself. You put the Light (Me) away.*" There's a great debate among Calvinists about whether a sinner can accept Christ. A sinner *won't receive Christ* until he *can't receive Christ*. "*Christ is the light that lights everyone that comes into the world.*" (I John 1:9). It's not about general or special revelation; it's about rejection of the Light until handed over to judgment (Rom. 1:20).

III. The cure is an open (clear) eye, which leads to astonishing illumination.

"When your eye is clear, your whole body (life) is full of light" (v. 34). This phrase "when your eye is clear," is literally, "when your eye is open (Gk. "haplous") which means "holding nothing back" or "giving generously." When you hold nothing back from the Light (Christ), but open wide and receive all of Him, you really live! *It's your sin; it's the cherishing and the holding to sin that makes you blind.* The only way you're ever going to see the light and life in great illumination, is to be willing to abandon your sin for Christ (see v. 36). Stop. Focus. Surrender. Jesus shines through.

IV. Jesus issues a caution to the religious to "be sure the light in you is not darkness."

“Watch out that the light within you is not darkness” (v. 35). This is a caution for all of us. Jesus Christ has come as both Savior and Lord. There’s a confession of religion that doesn’t become a conversion of life that’s darkness. Saying Jesus is Lord without loving people makes you a liar.