Why Did They Not Believe?

Greg Kline · John 11:38–53

INTRODUCTION

- But there's one question that has really bugged me, and as I study the New Testament, I come to it over and over again, particularly in the Gospels, and that's why did they not believe?
- It was the Jews, it was the religious leaders, it was the disciples, even who forsook Jesus before he was crucified.
- Jesus showed who he was time after time. He worked miracles, he spoke things, he fulfilled prophecies.

1 The Leaders Envied Him and Loved the Praise of Men

John 11:45–53; Mark 15:10; John 12:42–43

- What did they do from that day on? They made plans to put him to death.
- Mark chapter 15 and verse 10, it reveals that it was understood that they turned Jesus over because of envy.
- Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees. They did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue.
- They loved the praise of men. Can you imagine losing your soul? Because you like the way that people think about you or the following that you have?
- And so they envied him. Because Jesus was taking away their following.

2 Fear of the Pharisees

John 9:18–23

- His parents said these things because they feared the Jews. For the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.
- And so undoubtedly, some of the Jews would not have accepted Jesus because of fear of the Pharisees, because of fear of being put out of the synagogue.

3 They Had the Wrong Idea of Jesus

John 18:33–37; Luke 24

- Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.
- Where is Jesus' kingdom? It is a spiritual kingdom.
- He is ruling right where he has always been destined to be, at the right hand of God.
- He is on the throne of David, despite what the Jews would have thought in that physical sense.

4 The Veil Remains Unlifted

2 Corinthians 3:12–18

- For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted. Because only through Christ is it taken away.
- But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.
- So what was leaving the veil in place? The law of Moses.
- The problem is the old law was keeping them from seeing Christ.

5 Seeking Righteousness Apart From Faith

Romans 9:30–33

- Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works, they have stumbled over the stumbling stone.
- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- It's no longer about keeping the law perfectly. It's not about a righteousness of our own.
- We must believe that righteousness comes from Christ.

6 Why Did the Disciples Flee?

Matthew 26:31–35; Matthew 26:56; John 20:8–9

- Then Jesus said to them, You will all fall away because of me this night.
- Peter said to him, Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you. And all the disciples said the same.
- Then all the disciples left him and fled.
- For as yet they did not understand the scripture that he must rise from the dead.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Will you believe in Jesus this morning? Will you accept him not in the way that the Pharisees believed him but were afraid to confess? But in the sense that says, Jesus, I am yours. Your will be done.**

MY NOTES