

NOT WANTING JESUS?

There was an occasion when people were so upset by Jesus that they “besought him to depart from them” (Luke 8:47). The reason: Jesus had cast a plurality of demons from a man and sent them into nearby hogs. Rather than rejoice in the restoring of soundness of mind through the casting out of the demons by Christ, the citizens did not want Him among them. Like these people, many today are not comfortable with Jesus, or even the mention of His name in prayer.

Some would purposely exclude Him from their lives. These tell us that no positive mention should be made regarding Him in our schools or public activities. He is even being edited out of school history books, as well as His influence. In our modern educational system, we are to believe the freedom and relative prosperity of our nation is unrelated to the Christian impact upon civilization. In our diverse, multi-cultural society, the godly principals set forth in the Bible are no longer acceptable. Tolerance of perverseness and politically correct deceptions require intolerance toward Him who is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

Some would exclude Him from their choice of lifestyle. Evil so fills their hearts and lives it is impossible for Christ to take up residence in them. He is excluded from their lives. Sadly, for the majority “the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is in the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Others would crowd Him out—not purposely, but simply by filling their lives with material things. Such find no time for Christ, the Bible, or His church. Other things clamor for their attention. It is needful for we who would follow Christ to beware lest we permit the multitude of other interests to take precedence over Christ.

What about you? Are you among those who would send Him away? Or would you welcome Him into your life? Through the revelation given to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, Jesus addressed the materially blessed church at Laodicea which had become lukewarm in their relationship to Christ, saying, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Yes, even “religious” church members can unwittingly distance themselves from Christ, Are we willing to stand with Him when the world rejects Him and His teachings? Will you permit Him to be the priority in your life? Or would you, too, be among those who would send Him away?

--Ron