

REFUSING LIFE

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." And ye are unwilling to come to me, that life ye may have." John 5:40.

Christ Jesus gave up the glories of heaven and came down to this earth to make it possible for men to obtain eternal life. He went up and down His native land offering eternal life as a free gift to all who would come to and receive Him. But the multitudes would not come to Him in order that they might obtain this life which He offered so freely to them. They would come in vast crowds to see His miracles, and to listen to His teachings, but they would not come to Him and put their trust in Him as their Saviour and Lord. Naturally His heart was breaking over the folly and ingratitude of those whom He came to save.

One day He was surrounded by a great crowd of curiosity seekers and miracle-mongers. As He looked over that vast assembly and saw the sickness, want, misery, soul-destroying sin and unbelief that characterized them, His heart went out toward them in unutterable sympathy and longing. Plaintively He said, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."

In substance Christ said, "I offered you life and you would not have it." "You could have been saved, but you refused to be." "I called, but you refused to come." So, they were responsible for their lost condition. The door to heaven had been flung wide open, but some had refused to enter it. A call had been sent out from heaven for all to repent and to believe, in order that they might be saved. Some heeded that call, but others refused to do so.

Christ is the only Saviour there is or every will be. Some people think there are other ways. but they are mistaken. Christ is the only one who can save. None have ever come to Him in trust and dependence but what He has saved them.

I. Reasons Why Men Do Not Come To Christ.

If a lifeboat went out to a wreck, and it was sufficient to bring back the entire crew, but it returned with less than half of them, you would inquire why the rest did not come back on it. Even so, after Christ has come to seek and to save that which was lost, and yet the majority are still unsaved, it behooves us to inquire why so many are not saved. Why do people remain lost?

1. Negatively.

- (1) It is not the will of God for any to remain lost.

By every prophet, apostle and writer of the sacred scriptures He has voiced the fact that He does not want people to be lost. His invitation, "Come to me," is found at least 952 times in the Bible, besides other expressions which convey the same meaning. Men are not lost because God wants them to be, for He has done all that is necessary to keep them from being lost. His desire is for "all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

- (2) It is not because anything is lacking in Christ.

- a. Christ is able to save.

- b. Christ is willing to save.

When Christ spoke the words in this verse, His face wore the look of sadness. He felt the wrong that people did when they rejected Him. When you reject Christ, He is grieved because He wants you to come to Him and be saved.

He longs for you to come to Him just as you are, and let Him save you from your sins. If you fail to come to Christ and receive eternal life, it is not the fault of the Saviour.

2. Positively.

Among the reasons why people are lost are the following:

(1) Ignorance of Christ.

Many have heard gospel of Christ preached over a period of years, and yet He is an utter stranger to them.

(2) Self-righteousness.

Many do not feel any danger or have any awareness of a personal need. Many are anxious about their families, jobs, business, money, character and reputation, but they are not anxious about their souls. No one ever comes to Christ until He feels his need of Him.

(3) Love of sin.

Many know they are sinners and in need of salvation and eternal life, and that they should come to Christ and be saved, but they are unwilling to give up their sins.

(4) Fear of Man.

Some would come to Christ and receive Him as their Saviour, but they are afraid of what someone might think or say if they should accept and confess Christ. It is better to have some foolish person to laugh at you here for doing the right thing than to have the demons of hell to laugh at you throughout eternity for doing the wrong thing.

(5) Love of friends.

Some fear they will lose some friend if they should become Christians. The best friend is Jesus Christ. Give Him the first place in your life no matter what earthly friend you may lose by doing it.

(6) Unwillingness.

If you are not a Christian, it is simply because you refuse to be. Christ offers you salvation, but you will not take it. It is as if a starving man would refuse to eat the food spread before him. A man took his life by jumping into the bay. A man on the wharf threw a rope within a few inches of his hand. Instead of seizing the rope, he deliberately pushed it away and went down to a watery grave. Christ throws out the life-line in order that every sinking soul may be saved eternally. The real difficulty in the way of your salvation is your own rebellious will.

II. Reasons Why Men Should Come To Christ.

1. They need to be saved.
2. This is the only way they will ever get saved.
3. They are invited to come to Christ.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

4. Their happiness depends on it.

5. They need the blessings derived from coming to Christ.

The moment you come to Christ and trust Him as your Saviour, you will receive the forgiveness of sins, peace of conscience, perfect security, intimate fellowship and eternal life. When you come to Christ and receive Him as your Saviour, that will be the greatest moment in your life.