



Multitudes followed Jesus too...

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Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church congregation



Jesus of Nazareth had big crowds too. He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. Those that followed him were great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan (**Matthew 4:25**), and he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God to them.

But the vast majority of his "congregations" told him, "...*This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*" (**John 6:60**) and "...*Now we know that thou hast a devil...*" (**John 8:52**) and, at the end of His service, "*Then took they up stones to cast at him...*" (**John 8:59**).

In today's mega-churches, people still "...*will not hear the law of the Lord...*" (**Isaiah 30:9**), but instead say to their preachers, "...*Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits...*" (**Isaiah 30:10**).

And thousands of preachers, teachers, evangelists, and pastors comply, walking after their own lust\$, their mouths speaking great swelling words after man's wisdom, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage (**Jude 1:16**).

**"The MAN
that WANDERETH
out of the WAY of
UNDERSTANDING
shall REMAIN in the
CONGREGATION
of the DEAD."**

Proverbs 21:16 KJV

Jesus made these men and women easily recognizable. He said, "*Woe unto you (preachers), when ALL men shall speak WELL OF YOU! For so did their fathers to the false prophets*" (**Luke 6:26**).

No, Jesus could not compete with the popularity of today's "ministers of the gospel" because their message of prosperity *satisfies* the masses. Also, today's congregations would not be as financially "kind" to Jesus as they are with today's megaministers.

Jesus said, "*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me BEFORE it hated you*" (**John 15:18**). Preachers today are popular and rich. Jesus was despised and poor. If you follow Jesus, you **WILL** be **HATED** among the majority of men.

The message of **REPENTANCE** is the *same* message that caused the multitudes in the days of Jesus to **REJECT** him. A sinner **HATES** to be reproved or rebuked that he or she is a **SINNER**.

But the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to "*...Preach the Word...reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come (which is NOW) when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*" (**2 Tim. 4:1-4**).



Speaking of himself, Jesus said, "*...The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head*" (**Matthew 8:20**). Today's preachers live in luxury with **more than ONE** home at the expense of their "multitudes" (**2 Peter 2:1-3**).

By contrast, the scriptures declare that "*...many of (Jesus') disciples WENT BACK, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God*" (**John 6:66-69**).

What about **YOU**? Do you believe...and are you **SURE** that Jesus is **CHRIST**, the Son of the **LIVING** God? Remember, many are called, but few are chosen. Join the "few" that believe instead of the "many" who don't.

