

MANY BELIEVED.....BUT—

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: “Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him; **but** because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God.” (John 12:42,43)
- B. SETTING:
1. Final week of the earthly ministry of Jesus.
 2. He had returned to Jerusalem.
 3. Multitudes turned out to greet Him.
 4. Some came to praise, others sought to kill Him. (Even planned to kill Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, because of him many believed.
 5. But not all who **believed** were willing to obey! Same is true today!!
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THOSE IN THE TEXT

- A. MANY BELIEVED ON HIM!
1. They had both seen and heard Jesus.
 2. No question of His greatness.
 3. But the line had been drawn....If you followed Jesus, you had to leave the camp of the Pharisees.
- B. THOUGH MANY BELIEVED....They Did Not Confess It...WHY??
1. Three reasons given.
 2. We want to examine them today.
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BELIEVED....BUT...

- A. FIRST reason given was **Religious Pressure**.
1. Because of the Pharisees.
 2. To the officers who returned, having failed to arrest Jesus. “*Hath any of the rulers believed on him, or of the Pharisees?*” (John 8:48).
 3. They listened to their religious teachers.
 4. This is what we have always done.
- B. SECOND reason given was **Security**.
1. Afraid they would be put out of the synagogue.
 2. What the synagogue meant to them.
 3. What they would have lost.

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C. THIRD excuse given. Personal Pride!

1. Loved the glory that is of men.
 2. Instead of being complemented they were afraid they would be ridiculed for following one from Galilee.
 3. It would not have been the popular decision or thing to do.
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OTHERS

A. THE YOUNG RULER. (Matt. 19:16-22).

1. Knew he had need. *“Teacher what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”*
2. Jesus’ answer was for him to obey.
3. Up to this point he had.... *“What lack I yet?”*
4. *“Jesus said unto him, If thou wouldest be perfect, go, sell that which thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions.”*
(Matt. 19:21-22).
5. He Believed.....BUT-----

B. AGRIPPA (Acts 26).

1. Paul on trial before the king.
 2. *King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.”*
 3. Again we have one who believes....BUT—
 4. He will always be remember as one who ALMOST became a Christian.
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TODAY

A. THERE ARE MANY TODAY LIKE THE RULERS OF JESUS’ DAY.

1. They Believe.....BUT-----
2. What are some of the reasons given today?

B. FAMILY PRESSURE.

1. Family is not religious.
2. Or Family is religiously divided.
3. Would have to “break” with the family.
4. Or it would divide the family.
5. “If I become a Christian, it will mean that I think my parents are/will be lost.

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C. BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE.

1. Believe, but don't have any idea what else they should do.
2. And many do not want to know.
3. They Believe, But don't study God's Word.
4. *The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent*" (Acts 17:30).

D. LOVE OF PLEASURE. (Like the Jews).

1. They Believe...But are not willing to give up the way of the world.
2. If would require to much of a change in their life style.
3. They simple would rather live like they do, than to obey God.

E. THIS IS A **HARD SAYING!**

1. *"Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it? Upon this many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."* (John 6:60, 66).
 2. It required more than they were willing to do.
 3. Did not look to the true meaning of life or the complete meaning of His teachings.
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CONCLUSION

A. WHAT IS THE RESULTS OF BELIEVING BUT...NOT OBEYING?

1. *"Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself."* (James 2;17).
2. *"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead."* (James 2:26).

B. CAN THAT FAITH SAVE?

1. What about the Rich Young Ruler?
2. Agrippa.

C. CONSIDER.....**WHAT IF—**

1. One Believes,.....But does not confess.. *"Everyone therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven."* (Matt. 10:32,33).
 2. One Believes.....But does not Repent. *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish."* (Luke 13:3).
 3. One Believe.....But is not baptized? *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned."* (Mark 16:16).
 4. II Thess. 1:8- vengeance to them that obey not the gospel.
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