

Give Me Jesus, But Not...

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 13, In the year of our Lord, 2014
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg

Prelude:

I. We love Jesus because He loves us.

- A. Many people find Him easy to accept,
- B. He is so accepting of us.
 - 1. He takes us from our lowest points in life and
 - 2. lifts to heights we had never known before.

II. Yet, some people have difficulty with some things connected to Him.

Persuasion:

I. Give me Jesus, but not the church?

- A. Why do people reject the church?
 - 1. Hypocrites
 - 2. Worship services
 - 3. Looking for social club
- B. When some Christians cease all association with the church,
 - 1. they claim they have not forsaken Jesus.
 - 2. Yet, can we separate Jesus from His church?
- C. We cannot separate Jesus from His church, and
 - 1. we should not want to anyway.
 - 2. People see the church as optional, but
 - a) Jesus does not see it that way.
 - b) Nothing on the Earth surpasses the church in His mind.
 - (1) How easily can we separate your head from your body?

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have

the preeminence (Col 1.18).

(2) How easily can we separate you from your spouse?

7 “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” (Rev 19.7).

(3) How easily can we separate Jesus from His death?

28 “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20.28).

D. Do you want to go to heaven?

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body (Eph 5.23).

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven... (Heb 12.22–23a).

II. Give me Jesus, but not the Bible?

A. People like to draw their own picture of Jesus, because

1. the word makes them uncomfortable.
2. They believe it paints a perverted message of Jesus, yet,
 - a) where did they get the idea of Jesus?
 - b) They cannot know of Jesus unless they read of Him in Scripture.

B. They actually believe Jesus sought to de-emphasize Scripture, but:

26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” (Luke 10.26).

19 “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5.19).

C. Can we separate you from your word?

1. Neither can we separate Jesus from His word,
2. nor should we try!

48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12.48).

D. If you want to go to heaven, remember that His word is the standard.

III. Give me Jesus, but not total commitment?

A. As Americans, we obsess about personal freedom.

1. Full commitment to someone implies loss of personal freedom.
2. People have things they want to do and
 - a) nothing is going to interfere,
 - b) not even Jesus Christ.

B. Did Jesus give us total commitment?

1. What or who do we think Jesus is?
2. If He is the Lord,
 - a) nothing less than total commitment suffices.
 - b) If He is not the Lord, he deserves nothing.
 - (1) What does a half-hearted commitment imply?
 - (a) He is not worthy.
 - (b) He is not good enough.
 - (c) You have better things to do.

C. We like the idea of Jesus

1. leaving heaven,
2. coming to the Earth, and
3. bearing the cross for us, but
 - a) we have problems with Him asking us
 - (1) to leave our comforts,
 - (2) to follow Him, and
 - (3) to bear our crosses for Him!
 - b) However, He demands that we do those very things,

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me" (Mark 10.21).

Exhortation:

I. Do you want to go to heaven?

II. How strong is your desire?

- A. This life is a split second compared to eternity.
- B. Do you seek heaven, then you must seek Jesus.
- C. If you seek Jesus, then you must seek and accept everything about him.