

# People Jesus Did Not Help

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In reference to the sick, twice in the Bible we are told Jesus "*healed them all*" (Matt. 12:15, Luke 6:19). He also forgave sins while on earth (Lk. 7:28, Mark 2:5). He taught great truths to multitudes and converted many disciples. Jesus helped many, but there were some He did not help.

As a group, we could say, Jesus did not help **the religious leaders**. These were the people who bribed Judas, convinced the people to call for the crucifixion of Christ, and badgered Pilate into condemning an innocent man. They were not helped by Jesus because they did not listen to Him. They wanted to maintain the status quo. They did not want to lose their position in the Jewish community or with the Roman government.

Those who were healed by Jesus often had to comply with His instructions. If the blind man did not wash his eyes in the pool as he was told he would have remained blind. If the ten lepers did not go to see the priest as instructed they would have stayed in their unclean state. They were healed because they obeyed the words of Jesus. The same is true for healing our sins.

Four individuals come to mind that Jesus did not help. It was not a lack of Jesus' power or will. These men were not helped because they did not do what was right.

**Pontius Pilate was not helped by Jesus.** He met Him. He talked with Him. He recognized His innocence. He was moved by the Lord's silence among the many accusations. But when Pilate had the chance to rule in favor of Jesus he failed. He cowered before the crowd. Matt 27:24 "*When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.*"

**Judas Iscariot was not helped by Jesus.** Although Judas worked with our Lord for over three years he was never converted from his greed. He stole from the bag of the Apostles. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He did not seem to realize Jesus would be condemned and executed through his action. He became sorry for his sin, but instead of repenting toward truth he killed himself over the guilt and grief.

Matt 27:3-5 "*Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."*

**The other thief on the cross was not helped by Jesus.** One thief acknowledged Jesus' innocence. He asked if he could join Him in His kingdom after death. He was promised Paradise. The other thief's only concern was with his physical rescue. If Jesus was the Christ He was supposed to rescue all three of them in this thief's mind.

Luke 23:39-41 "*And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."*

These three could not be helped by Jesus because of their physical focus. Pilate was concerned more about his political ambitions than about his spiritual position. Judas sought riches on earth instead of riches in heaven. The thief wanted to be rescued from the crucifixion and the pain more than being delivered from his sins. Pilate would not stand up. Judas would not wait three days. The thief would not look beyond life. There is one other person we would like to consider.

**Jesus did not help the rich young ruler.** Like so many in the world today, this young man did not have his priorities straight. He was a good man morally. He came to Jesus showing reverence and asking the proper question. He wanted to know what he needed to do to gain eternal life. He went to the right source with the right question and received the right answer. Yet, he was not helped. Instead of going on his way rejoicing like the Ethiopian treasurer, he went away in sorrow.

Mark 10:17-22 *"And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, **what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?** And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. **And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.**"*

The young ruler was like the others who Jesus could not help. Because of their physical priorities they would not listen. Sometimes our priority is our position, our possessions, or our family (Matt 10:34-37). Whatever is more valuable to us than God will cost us our souls. Matt 16:24-26 *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or **what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**"*