

John 5:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Analysis

'And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.' The problem isn't intellectual but volitional—'ye will not come.' Scripture points to Christ; they won't follow the pointer. The life they seek through study is found in Him; they refuse to come. Unbelief is not inability but unwillingness. The evidence is sufficient; the will resists. This explains why religious experts reject Christ—their will, not their mind, is the obstacle.

Historical Context

This verse diagnoses the religious leaders' problem. They're not lacking information—they have the Scriptures. They lack willingness to submit to the One Scripture reveals. Their refusal is moral, not intellectual. Pride, vested interest, and love of human approval (verse 44) prevent coming to Christ.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why is unwillingness more fundamental than intellectual objection in unbelief?

2. What prevents religious people from coming to Christ for life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐ	θέλετε	ἐλθεῖν	πρός	με	ἵνα	ζωήν	ἔχητε
And	not	ye will	come	to	me	that	life	ye might have
G2532	G3756	G2309	G2064	G4314	G3165	G2443	G2222	G2192

Additional Cross-References

John 3:19 (Parallel theme): And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 1:11 (Parallel theme): He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Matthew 23:37 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

John 6:37 (Parallel theme): All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isaiah 49:7 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

John 6:27 (Parallel theme): Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:40 (Parallel theme): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Psalms 81:11 (Parallel theme): But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

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