

# Matthew 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

## Analysis

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Jesus' description of the Pharisees—"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind"—pronounces judgment on false teachers. 'Let them alone' means cease trying to please or appease them. They're 'blind' (spiritually unseeing) yet claim to lead others. The warning 'if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch' shows that false teaching destroys both teacher and follower. This stark warning emphasizes the danger of following religious leaders who lack spiritual truth.

## Historical Context

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The Pharisees were offended by Jesus' teaching (v. 12), revealing their spiritual blindness. As religious authorities, they guided Israel but lacked spiritual sight to recognize Messiah or understand Scripture's true meaning. Jesus' 'let them alone' signals their hardened rejection meriting divine judgment. Their influence led Israel to reject Jesus.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do you discern between blind guides and true spiritual leaders?
2. What happens when you follow religious leaders who lack spiritual truth?

## Interlinear Text

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ἄφετε	αὐτούς·	ὁδηγοί	εἰσιν	τυφλὸν	τυφλὸν	τυφλὸν	δὲ
<b>Let</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>leaders</b>	<b>they be</b>	<b>blind</b>	<b>blind</b>	<b>blind</b>	<b>And</b>
G863	G846	G3595	G1526	G5185	G5185	G5185	G1161
τυφλὸν	ἐὰν	ὁδηγῇ	ἀμφότεροι	εἰς	βόθυνον	πεσοῦνται	
<b>blind</b>	<b>if</b>	<b>lead</b>	<b>both</b>	<b>into</b>	<b>the ditch</b>	<b>shall fall</b>	
G5185	G1437	G3594	G297	G1519	G999	G4098	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 6:39** (Parallel theme): And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

**Isaiah 56:10** (Parallel theme): His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

**Isaiah 9:16** (Parallel theme): For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

**Malachi 2:8** (Parallel theme): But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Isaiah 42:19** (Parallel theme): Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

**2 Peter 2:1** (Parallel theme): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**Jeremiah 5:31** (Parallel theme): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

**Hosea 4:17** (Parallel theme): Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.

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