

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

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

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

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

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

ἄφετε αὐτούς· ὁδηγοί εἰσιν τυφλὸν τυφλὸν τυφλὸν δὲ
Let them leaders they be blind blind blind And
G863 G846 G3595 G1526 G5185 G5185 G5185 G1161

τυφλὸν ἐὰν ὁδηγῇ ἀμφότεροι εἰς βόθυνον πεσοῦνται
blind if lead both into the ditch shall fall
G5185 G1437 G3594 G297 G1519 G999 G4098

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org