

Real Reason Christians Stay Silent

Mysteries in the Gospel of John Season 13

Core Message:

Fear of rejection, loss of approval, or personal discomfort often keeps believers silent, yet Jesus calls His disciples to value God's approval above the approval of men. Followers of Jesus are called not only to believe in Him privately but also to openly confess Him before others. As we receive Christ, obey His Word, and acknowledge Him as Lord, He progressively brings us out of spiritual darkness into His marvelous light. Every believer has the privilege and responsibility of sharing the hope of the Gospel through both words and actions, trusting the Holy Spirit to work through simple acts of faithfulness.

Main Bible Verses (NASB):

- **Core Memory Verse: (John 12:42–43)** *“Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.”*
- **(Mark 8:38)** *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*
- **(John 12:46)** *“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”*
- **(Romans 10:9)** *“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*
- **(Matthew 28:19–20)** — *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Key Points (Fill-in-the-Blank):

- “They were not confessing Him, for _____ that they would be put out of the synagogue.”
- “They loved the approval of _____ rather than the approval of God.”
- “The first thing is that we believe in the _____ of God.”
- “I have come as a _____ into the world so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in the darkness.”
- “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do what I _____?”
- “We have a choice right now. Will we _____ and move forward in Him, or will we make an excuse?”

Notes:

(Use lines below for personal notes)

Reflection Questions:

1. What fears or concerns most often keep me from speaking openly about Jesus?

2. In what ways am I seeking the approval of people more than the approval of God?

3. How is Jesus inviting me to walk in greater obedience and light this week?

4. Who is one person God may be leading me to encourage or share the Gospel with this week?

Application Challenge of the Week:

Each day this week, intentionally mention Jesus in at least one conversation through a testimony, an encouraging word, an offer to pray for someone, or a simple reminder that “Jesus loves you.” (Or come up with your own as the Lord leads):

Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God to replace the fear of people with boldness through the Holy Spirit.
- Thank Jesus for bringing you out of darkness and into His light.
- Pray for opportunities to lovingly share the Gospel with someone this week.

“The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord cause His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face to you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:22-27
(NASB 95’)