

The Day the Judaizers Came to Town—A Parable

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There was once a church that loved the truth of the gospel. They had received a letter from Paul, the apostle, and his words burned in their hearts.

He reminded them how he had confronted Peter to his face, for Peter had drawn back from Gentile believers and, by his actions, suggested that the law was necessary for fellowship. Though Peter had not preached another gospel, his behavior had compromised the truth of it. Paul would not allow even the appearance of adding works to grace.

Then Paul warned the Galatians themselves: *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”* His words were sharp, for they were already drifting.

And Paul spoke most strongly of all about the Judaizers: *“If anyone preaches another gospel... let him be accursed.”*

The church trembled at these words, and for a time they were careful.

But only a few weeks later, the Judaizers came to town. They announced a study on the Law of Moses. Their voices were smooth, their knowledge impressive. They promised insight, depth, and wisdom.

One brother in the Galatian congregation said, *“Surely we could benefit from their teaching. They know the Scriptures well. Why not attend their study and learn what we can?”*

But another brother rose and said, *“Are you mad? Did you not hear Paul’s letter? Why would we sit under men who corrupt the gospel of Christ? Poison does not become safe simply because it is served on a silver platter.”*

The people fell silent. They remembered Paul’s warning, and they agreed it would be folly to sit at the feet of those who had perverted the good news. One even remarked, half in jest but wholly in truth, *“If Paul ever heard that we were considering it, he would go ballistic!”*

So the church turned away from the Judaizers. That night they bowed their heads and prayed for courage to hold fast to the gospel: salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Moral: Good teaching mixed with a false gospel is no treasure—it is a trap. To seek fellowship with those who pervert grace is not harmless curiosity, but dangerous compromise.

The Day the Judaizers Offered a Bible Study—Sequel

Not long after Paul's letter was read in the church at Galatia, the Judaizers announced a special Bible study on the Old Testament Law. Word spread quickly, and some of the Galatian believers began to whisper among themselves.

One brother stood and said, "There are no other teachers nearby. Where else can we go?"

Another replied, "Better to have no teacher than one who twists the gospel. Didn't Paul remind us that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"

Another voice chimed in, "Perhaps we're overreacting. They mean well, and maybe it's not that big of a difference."

But someone shook their head. "Paul didn't call it a small difference—he said it was *another gospel*, which is no gospel at all."

Then a sister raised her hand, "But my family goes to their meetings. I don't want to be left out."

The room grew quiet until one answered, "Do we love family more than Christ? Paul himself said that to please men is not to serve Christ."

Another man added, "Maybe if we attend, we can influence them and bring them over to Paul's teaching."

But a wiser brother replied, "Isn't that the same compromise that trapped Peter? He thought he could keep peace, but instead he stumbled many."

From the back came another thought, "I'm strong enough. Their teaching won't affect me."

Someone gently said, "Peter thought the same, and he was swayed. If he could stumble, how much more could we?"

A young man spoke with excitement, "But have you heard their teaching? They quote Scripture beautifully and speak so passionately about obedience!"

An elder answered, "So did Satan in the wilderness. Quoting Scripture doesn't mean truth is being taught."

Another brother mentioned, "But their gatherings are so well-organized—wonderful music, lively children's lessons, strong community." The reply came: "Without the truth of the gospel, programs are just window dressing. The church is meant to be the pillar of truth, not a social club."

Someone else insisted, "Their teachers are so kind and genuine. Surely God is using them."

The answer came swiftly: "Paul said even if *he himself* preached another gospel, let him be accursed. Personality cannot cover poison."

A quiet voice said, "Why fight over doctrine? Isn't that just being divisive?"

The congregation grew sober. "Paul confronted Peter to his face over this very issue. The gospel isn't secondary—it's the very heart of the faith."

Finally, one brother spoke what many felt, "But what if this is all we've ever known? We've never tasted the freedom of grace."

Another's eyes softened. "That is exactly why we must hold fast to what Paul taught us. Once you taste the grace of Christ, you will never want to go back to chains."

The room grew still. Then someone said what they were all thinking: "Why on earth would we want to sit under the teaching of those who corrupt the very gospel that saved us?"