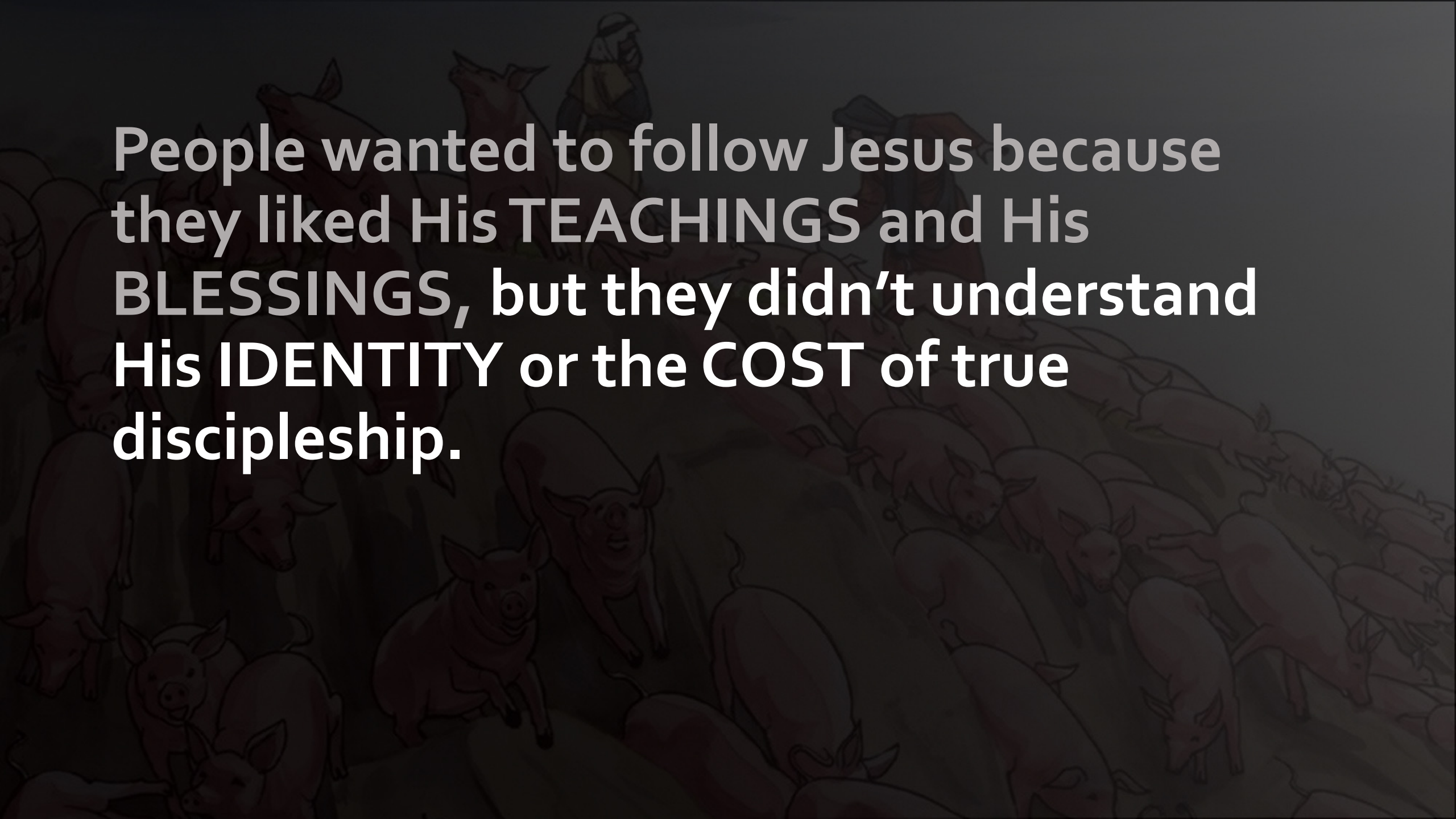
A large herd of pink pigs is running down a hillside. In the background, a person is riding a horse. The scene is rendered in a stylized, illustrative manner with a muted color palette.

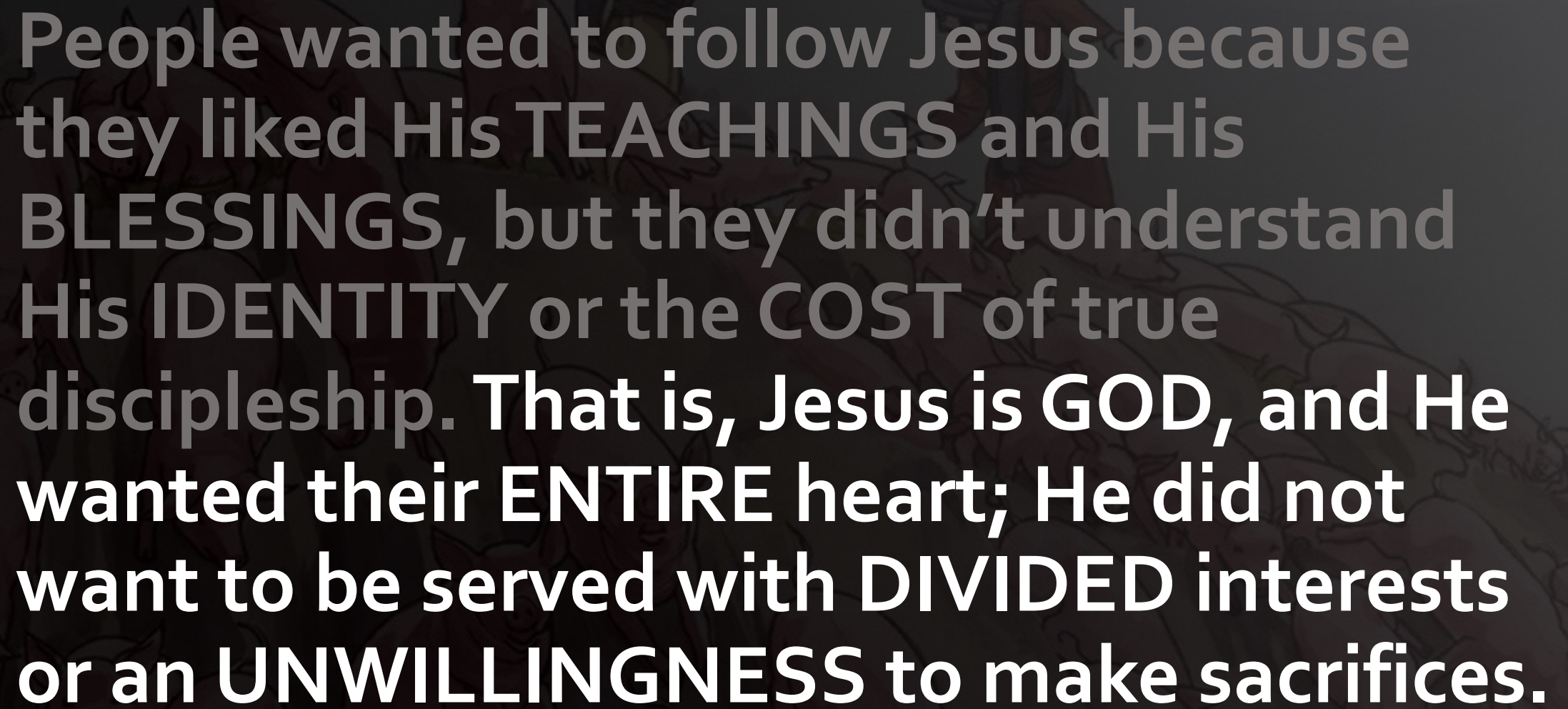
THAT STRANGE PIG STORY



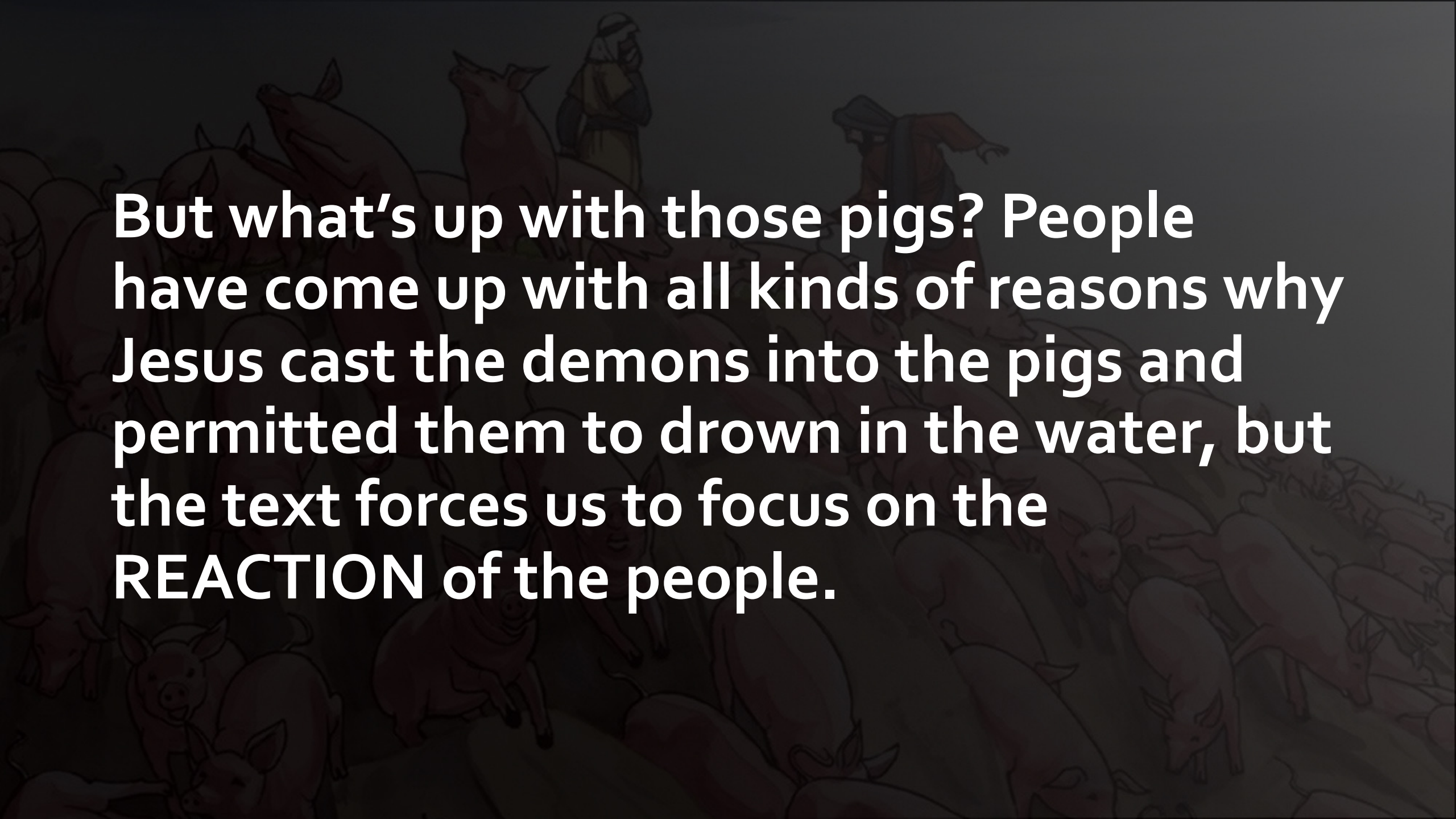
People wanted to follow Jesus because
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BLESSINGS,



People wanted to follow Jesus because they liked His **TEACHINGS** and His **BLESSINGS**, but they didn't understand His **IDENTITY** or the **COST** of true discipleship.



People wanted to follow Jesus because they liked His TEACHINGS and His BLESSINGS, but they didn't understand His IDENTITY or the COST of true discipleship. That is, Jesus is GOD, and He wanted their ENTIRE heart; He did not want to be served with DIVIDED interests or an UNWILLINGNESS to make sacrifices.



But what's up with those pigs? People have come up with all kinds of reasons why Jesus cast the demons into the pigs and permitted them to drown in the water, but the text forces us to focus on the REACTION of the people.



Implications from the People's Reaction

Sometimes people say, "If only I saw a
MIRACLE, I'd BELIEVE."

Implications from the People's Reaction

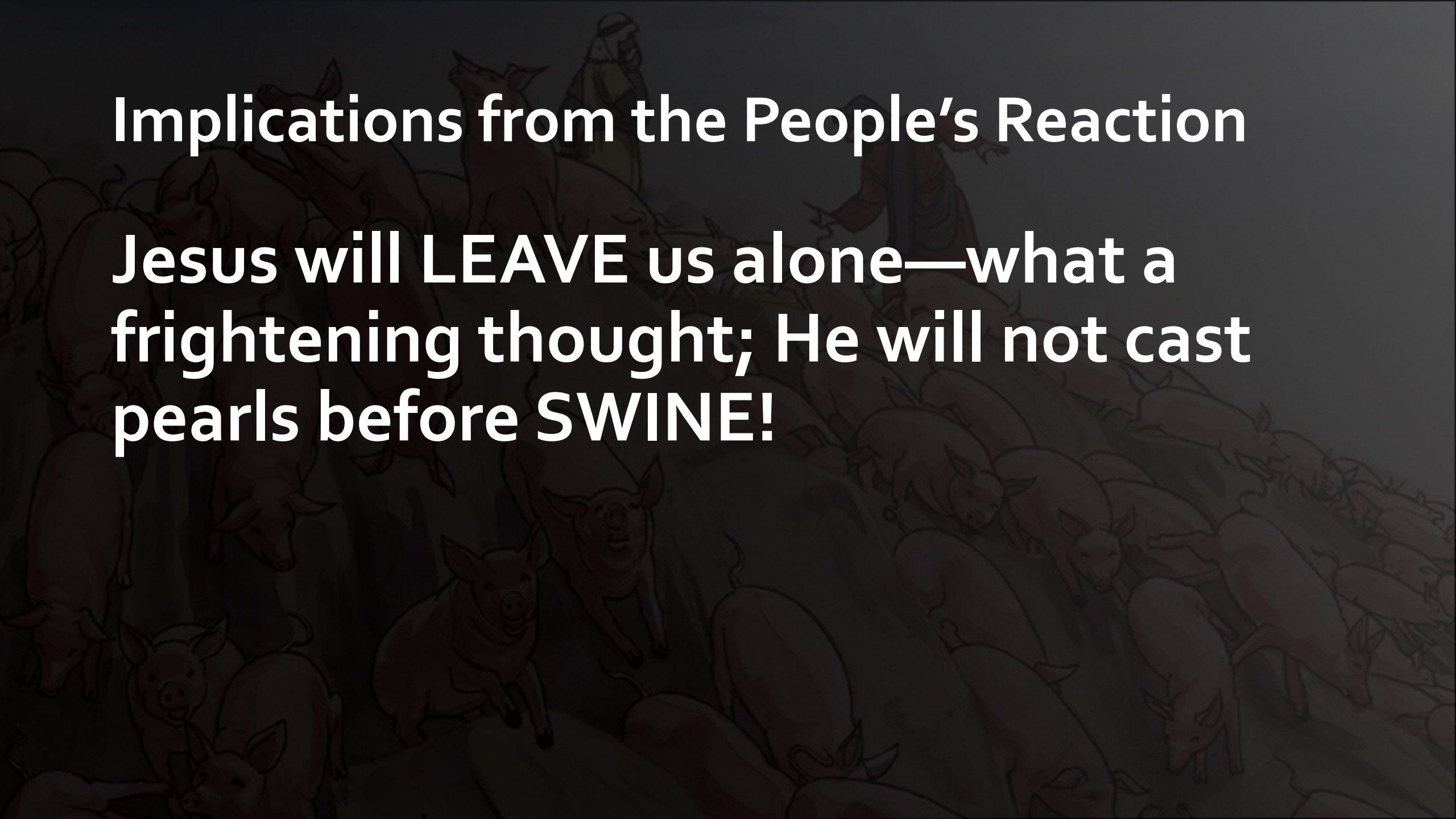
Sometimes people say, "If only I saw a **MIRACLE**, I'd **BELIEVE**." No, if you won't **RECEIVE** the word of God as is, you won't believe even if you saw a miracle!

Implications from the People's Reaction

We can trust Jesus to remove the overwhelming **BURDENS** in our lives, but that burden-**REMOVAL** process might involve us losing something **VALUABLE** to us, like our livelihood or comfortable lifestyle.

Implications from the People's Reaction

Jesus will LEAVE us alone—what a frightening thought; He will not cast pearls before SWINE!



Implications from the People's Reaction

But why would anyone tell Jesus to leave them alone? Because they don't recognize what these demons confessed: That Jesus is the Son of God and the JUDGE.

Implications from the People's Reaction

But why would anyone tell Jesus to leave them alone? Because they don't recognize what these demons confessed: That Jesus is the Son of God and the JUDGE. How **WICKED**, then, must one be if he won't even recognize what satan's demons recognized?!



Implications from the People's Reaction

Once you give your life over to
Jesus, GO and TELL everyone!
And God will WORK through
you.