

# **If A Lot Of People Do Something, Does That Prove That What They Are Doing Is Right?**

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Sometimes people observe or learn about a large group of people involved in a religious activity, and make this conclusion: “If what they are doing is not right, then why are so many people doing it?” Others put it this way: “God must be with them and blessing them; otherwise, why would they have so many people in their group?” We might hear yet others proclaim, “They must be doing something right, or else they would not have such a big crowd of people.”

All of those terms noted above can basically be summarized in one idea or concept: If many people, or a majority of people, are doing something in the religious realm, then what they are doing must be right. In other words, a large number of people involved in an activity is proof that what they are doing is pleasing to God. Does the Bible support such a notion? Perhaps some Bible examples can be helpful in this regard.

## **The Ark and the Flood:**

In the days of Noah, “*God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.*” (Gen. 6:5). As a result, He decided to destroy the world by a flood. “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*” (Gen. 6:8). Jehovah told this righteous man to build an ark in which he and his family could be saved (Gen. 6:14-22). When the flood came, a total of only “eight souls were saved” in the ark (1 Peter 3:20). The majority of people who lived in the world at that time died outside the ark. In this case was the action of the majority of people right, or wrong? In 1 Peter 3:20, those who died outside the ark during the flood are described as “disobedient.” Please observe: although the group inside the ark was a small one, made up of only eight people, their action was right, while the action of most of the people (those outside the ark) was wrong in God’s sight.

## **Sodom:**

God promised Abraham that if He could find at least ten righteous people in the ancient city of Sodom, then He would not destroy it (Gen. 18:32). In the end, God could not find that many righteous souls there, so the city was destroyed. Before God destroyed it, He sent His angels to save “just Lot,” his wife, and two daughters (2 Peter 2:7; Gen. 19:16). In this instance, it is obvious that only a minority of the people were saved from destruction in the city, while the great majority of people were killed because of their unrighteousness. Question: In this case, who pleased

God, the people that were destroyed inside Sodom (the majority), or those who left the city (the minority)? The answer is obvious, is it not?

## **The Israelite Soldiers in the Wilderness:**

Out of the 603,550 soldiers of Israel that were numbered at Mt. Sinai, only two, Caleb and Joshua, were allowed to enter the land of Canaan (Num. 14:28-30). And what about the others? Because of what the Bible calls their “unbelief,” they were not permitted entrance into the Promised Land (Heb. 3:19). Two of the original soldiers were faithful; the others were not. Would we say that the majority (those identified with “unbelief”) met with God’s approval? Not hardly. Again, we see that what the majority of people might do, even religious people, is not necessarily pleasing to our Creator.

Jesus’ Apostles: Suppose 100% of the members of a particular religious group were united in what they did. Would that prove that what they did is right and according to truth? Consider an example from the life of the apostles of Jesus. When our Lord was taken away by Judas Iscariot and the mob which accompanied him to be tried before the council of the Jews, what did the apostles do? They ran away! How many of them? One hundred per cent. “*Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*” (Matt. 26:56). All of the apostles forsook Jesus! Should we conclude that since all of them did this, then that proves that forsaking Jesus was the right thing to do? We know the answer!

## **The Multitude That Cried out for Jesus to Be Crucified:**

On the morning of Jesus’ crucifixion, the Roman governor before whom He stood, Pilate, gave the Jewish people a choice. He had two special prisoners in custody, Barabbas and Jesus. He would release one of them and crucify the other. When Pilate appealed to the crowd that was assembled before him, he asked, “*Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?*” (Matt. 27:17). When all was said and done, Pilate released Barabbas and sentenced the Christ to death. Why? “*But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.*” (Matt. 27:20). Look again at who it was that cried out for Jesus to be crucified: it was “the multitude.” Friends, many people wanted Jesus put to death. Are you still convinced that in every case, whatever a lot of people do or say has to be right? Surely you will not praise the multitude’s request to kill the sinless Son of God! There can be no missing this truth: when that great throng of people cried out for Jesus’ blood, though they “had the numbers,” they were absolutely wrong.

What conclusion should we draw from the five biblical illustrations that we have noted? It is quite simple. Do not be deceived: the number of people involved in a particular group or activity does not prove whether their actions are right or wrong in the sight of the Lord. Let us strive to be faithful to God, and not worry about whether “we” have more or less people than some other group has.

## **Some final questions:**

What did God tell the children of Israel about following a multitude? *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil”* (Ex. 23:2).

Can the Lord save with many on His side? Can the Lord save with just a few people marching with Him? He saved the Israelites with Gideon’s army of only 300 men (Judges 7). We would also do well to remember what Jonathan, the son of King Saul said: *“...there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.”* (1 Sam. 14:6).

What did Jesus say about how many people are headed to destruction and life? *“Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Matt. 7:13,14). Could there be a clearer answer to our inquiry about whether or not what a lot of people do is always right?!

We have been referring over and over to a large group of people or what the majority does. But what about the actions of a few people? If only a small number of people are doing something, does the fact that they are in the minority necessarily mean that their actions are pleasing in God’s sight? Not at all. Truth is truth, and right is right, regardless of whether there are few or many who walk in God’s path of righteousness. Most people, especially the majority in the religious world, claim to be right because many are following their preachers.

For the cause of Christ,  
Sadat





