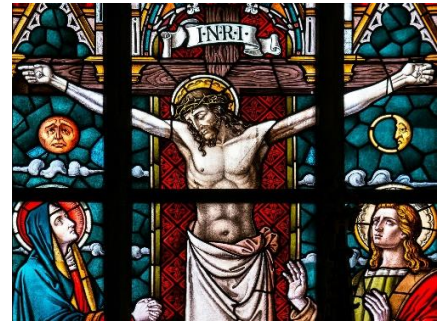


## Don't Force Your Religion On Me!



It happens every once in a while that when you try to tell someone about Jesus, you get the response: "don't force your religion on me! Stop proselytizing me!" Well, let's imagine just for a moment that we're back in Jesus' day. Jesus healed a lot of people – in fact, multitudes – but just to recall one occasion, he healed a paralytic man who was brought to Him on a stretcher. After the man got up and walked, can you imagine him saying: "No! What did you do? *Stop forcing your religion on me!*" Now, how ridiculous that would have been? Of course, he didn't say that. Early on in His ministry Jesus attended a wedding and turned a fairly large amount of water into wine. What a crazy scenario it would have been if the celebrating crowd had rejected the wine, saying "*don't force your religion on us!*"

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Jesus' disciples were caught one day in a storm while they were trying to get across the sea in a boat. Jesus calmed the raging wind and the water with a loud command, and their lives were saved. Do you think the disciples reacted to that with an offended "don't force your religion me?" Certainly not! Jesus didn't come here to start a religion. He just went about doing good and fixed everything that wasn't right. His goal was to show people what a person filled with the Spirit of God can do. His sacrifice on the cross opened the possibility for everybody to become the type of person He was, and *He encouraged us to believe that nothing is impossible.*

*Once humankind comes to understand that Jesus came to give us the ability to heal the sick, raise the dead, multiply food for the hungry, and stop natural disasters, no one will ever say "don't force your religion on me!"*

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