

## When the Waldenses Put God First

July 3, 2021

### AUDIO

The Waldenses lost everything when they put God first. Even then, they didn't give up. What can we learn from the Waldenses today to help us put God first in our own lives?

In the 12th century, the Roman Catholic Church had prohibited the Bible from being read and understood by regular people. Persecution was certain for anyone who challenged the authority of the church and especially the Pope. The Papacy had become the apocalyptic beast described in the Bible.

During this dark period of human history, Peter Waldo renounced his wealth and focused on helping those in need. A movement started in France as lay preachers voluntarily abandoned worldly prosperity and lived in strict devotion to the Bible. The Waldenses' main goal was to make the Word of God available in the common language.

In 1179, Waldo and one of his friends had to explain their faith before the Pope and a panel of three clergymen. The results of the meeting were uncertain, but the Third Lateran Council in the same year condemned Waldo's ideas.

Waldo and his followers created a system whereby they would go from town to town and meet secretly with small groups of Waldensians. There they would confess sins and hold worship services. A traveling Waldensian preacher was known as a Barba. The group would shelter the Barba and secretly help arrange the journey to the next town.

### VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

sc. 01

## AUDIO

sc. 02

The Waldenses lost their positions in society and eventually had to escape to the hills and caves. They continued to put God first by explaining scripture to anyone they could find. Their movement was a light in the darkness. They were precursors to the Protestant Reformation and represented a remnant of people who refused to put their comfort above the Kingdom of God.

We are called to be the remnant today, also sacrificing our comfort, and all we have, if necessary, while sharing with others God's truth and His plan of Salvation.

## VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

sc. 03

The Waldensians put God first, even when it cost them everything. Their courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us, and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As we return our tithes and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation.