

John 12:36b-43

Heart-change is necessary to
be a faithful follower of Jesus



Observing powerful works and hearing consistent truth does not change hearts (12:36b-38)

36b When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

- ❖ Knowing their sinful and hostile intent, Jesus leaves them and keeps out of their sight
- ❖ The teaching of Jesus put a wet blanket on the hopes and dreams of the people

37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,

- ❖ There is no way His teaching and His power can be more clearly manifest
- ❖ Even though they claim they are looking for the Messiah, Jesus does not fulfill their desires
 - ❖ John 1:11
- ❖ Their filters through death and unbelief are not open to the life and truth of God
 - ❖ Romans 3:9–20
- ❖ Without life and light from God, no one comes to Jesus as Savior and Lord
 - ❖ John 3:3

Observing powerful works and hearing consistent truth does not change hearts (12:36b-38)

³⁸ *so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

- ❖ The rejection of the Jewish Messiah by Jewish people may seem surprising, but it anticipated in prophetic Scripture

 - ❖ Isaiah 53:1

- ❖ God inspires the prophet to perceive two aspects of how the Messiah will be rejected

 - ❖ The word or the gospel will fall on deaf ears – *“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us...”*

 - ❖ The power of the gospel will not be seen or valued by blind eyes – *“and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

God's judgment to leave some in the condition of condemnation is justified (12:39-40)

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”

- ❖ The inability to believe is the result of the just judgment of God against sinners
- ❖ Judicial hardening is the point made by the quote from Isaiah 6
 - ❖ Isaiah 6:10
 - ❖ God's holy and righteous purpose is fulfilled in providing cleansing and forgiveness to Isaiah
 - ❖ God's holy and righteous purpose is also fulfilled in the just judgment of sinners
- ❖ People in a spiritually lifeless state cannot glorify God by doing what is right
 - ❖ Romans 8:7–8

God's judgment to leave some in the condition of condemnation is justified (12:39-40)

- ❖ Unregenerate people abide in the state of just condemnation before God as sinners by nature and by choice
 - ❖ John 3:17–18
 - ❖ John 3:36
 - ❖ Ephesians 2:1–5
- ❖ The Apostle Paul points out that prior to saving grace, all believers not only stood condemned, but we were active enemies of God
 - ❖ Romans 5:10
- ❖ The context of this passage in John indicates that those standing condemned, as those who cannot believe, abide under just judgment
 - ❖ John 12:37
 - ❖ John 12:43
- ❖ This is written to reveal God's grace in salvation and God's justice in judgment
 - ❖ Romans 9:18

Valuing the favor of man over devotion to Jesus verifies condemnation (12:41-43)

⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

- ❖ The passage quoted is Isaiah 6 where the prophet Isaiah is given a vision of the Lord of hosts
 - ❖ Isaiah 6:1–5
 - ❖ Who did Isaiah see?
 - ❖ Yahweh, the Lord of hosts
 - ❖ Whose glory does John say Isaiah saw?
 - ❖ Jesus
- ❖ John again presents clear testimony of the deity of Jesus
 - ❖ John 1:1–3
 - ❖ John 1:14
- ❖ We need to know and be able to share such clear statements of the deity of Jesus Christ!

Valuing the favor of man over devotion to Jesus verifies condemnation (12:41-43)

⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

- ❖ John recounts many people and leaders believing in Jesus
- ❖ Because of the threats of excommunication from public religious life, the people believing in Jesus are too afraid to identify openly as followers of Jesus
 - ❖ John 9:22
- ❖ John has given examples in his gospel of those who believe in Jesus, but their belief is not unto salvation (Cf. John 2:23-23; 6:60; 8:30-31)
- ❖ They had mental understandings of significant facts about Jesus but were lacking spiritual life and transformed loyalties
 - ❖ Matthew 10:33
- ❖ When people who claim to believe in Jesus value the favor of men over devotion to Jesus, this verifies they remain under condemnation
 - ❖ Hebrews 10:35–39

Questions to Consider

- ❖ Are you faithful in sharing the authoritative truth of God, knowing that it is only God who changes heart?
- ❖ In what ways are you showing you are willing to share the truth even if it is rejected?
- ❖ How are you witnessing the grace of God in your life to value devotion to Jesus more than valuing the favor of people?

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