

The Gospel of John

The Passion of Christ John 12-21



John 12:37-43

9/22/19 AM

ISAIAH SAW HIS GLORY

Introduction:

I. WHY IS THERE SUCH UNBELIEF? (12:37-40)

A. The Signs Are All There (vs. 37)

“though He had performed so many signs before them”

“yet they were not believing in Him”

B. The Prophecies Are All In Place (vs. 38)

“this was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke...”

C. The Message Has Been Given (vs. 39)

“LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?”

“AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?”

II. WHY DO SOME BELIEVE AND OTHERS NOT? (12:39-42)

A. Some Can't Believe (vs. 39-40a)

“for this reason they could not believe”

“for Isaiah said again, “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES...”

B. Some Won't Believe (vs. 40b-c)

“AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART”

“SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART”

“AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM”

C. But Some Do Believe (vs. 41)

“these things Isaiah said because he saw His glory”

“and he spoke of Him”

III. HOW DO PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE BELIEF? (12:42-43)

A. Some Come Out Openly (vs. 42a)

“nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him”

B. Some Keep It Hidden (vs. 42b)

“but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him”

“for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue”

C. With Some, It's Less Than Clear That It's Real (vs. 43)

” for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God”

Conclusion: (thanks to Steven J. Cole)

- 1) People do not believe in Jesus because they reject the light that He has given them.
- 2) If people reject the light that God has given them, He will judicially blind them even more.
- 3) People believe in Jesus because God has sovereignly drawn them to Himself.
- 4) Some people profess to believe in Jesus, but their commitment is not genuine because they still focus on what the world thinks.

Food for Thought:

- 1) Some people emphasize God's sovereignty to the neglect of human responsibility. Others to the opposite. Why must we hold both of these truths in tension? Support your answers from Scripture.
- 2) Some would argue that God never violates man's "free will". Do you agree? Does man actually have a free will? Support your answer from Scripture.
- 3) What constitutes true conversion? Is it possible to "make a decision for Christ" and not be truly converted?
- 4) What is the point of appealing to someone who has previously rejected the gospel? Is there hope that he might repent and believe?