

The Gospel of John: The Challenge of Unbelief

John 12:36-50

The Truthfulness of Scripture (v. 37-41)

- Despite Jesus' multiple public signs pointing to His identity, most of the crowds did not believe in Him
- John sees this as a fulfillment of God's words to the prophet Isaiah
 - The first quote is the opening verse of Isa 53, part of the Suffering Servant's Song (Isa 52:13-53:12)
 - It is clear from this side of the Cross that this is about Jesus (1 Pet 1:10-12)
 - John references Isaiah's mission to Israel as well (Isa 6:9-10)
 - This text is immediately followed by the promise of Immanuel (Isa 7, esp. v. 14)
 - God used the hard-heartedness of some to bring about His will through Christ
 - And He still does

Faith & Fear (v. 42-43)

- Some of the crowds did respond in faith to Jesus, even among the leaders
 - Nicodemus (Jn 2; 7:50; 19:39)
 - Joseph of Arimathea (Mt 27:57; Mk 15:43; Jn 19:38)
- But a public declaration of faith in Jesus was costly
 - They risked their positions and maybe even their lives
 - So, they remained quiet about their faith, which John admonishes them for

The Final Plea (v. 44-50)

- Jesus makes a *final* plea to the crowd to put their faith in Him before He goes to the Cross
 - This section ends what is called the Book of Signs (1:19-12:50) and acts as a summary of the purpose of this part of the Gospel
 - Chapter 13 begins the Book of Glory (13:1-20:31), which focuses on Jesus' glorification through His death & resurrection
- Jesus did not come as a judge but as a Savior
 - Judgement comes from a person's rejection of Christ
- He offers eternal life
 - If we refuse, the eternal punishment that we deserve for our sins is what is left for us
 - Jesus does not send people to hell
 - Our sin & our rejection of His grace, mercy, and love does

So What?

- Have we put our faith in Jesus?
- Do we declare it to the world so they might also come to know Him?

Meditation Verse: John 12:47-48

Next Week: John 13:1-38