

Title: They Did not Believe

Text: John 12:37-42

*STILL PASSIVE*

We are studying the Gospel of John. If you have your Bibles, would you turn, please, to the Gospel of John chapter 12. The Gospel of John chapter 12. There are notes in your bulletin. And I would encourage you to follow along in our study of this wonderful book.

(7B) John chapter 12 ~~42~~ is really a summary of the public ministry of Jesus. Because chapter 13 starts a different section of John concerning the private ministry of Jesus with His disciples. ~~in~~ Chapters 5 through 11, we have been examining the signs and controversies of the public ministry of Jesus. We have noticed his wonderful manifestation to the world. Then we notice that after each one of his signs a controversy developed. A definite ~~reaction~~ <sup>who was lame</sup> reaction against his ministry from the time of the healing of the man ~~who was lame~~ to the resurrection of Lazarus in chapter 11. We see that some folks believed; but many did not believe in Him.

(3C) Now, what we have in chapter 12 beginning with Vs 37 are the reasons for ~~unbelief~~ <sup>of unbelief</sup>. Why people didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah, even when they saw all these signs that Jesus performed. And maybe these reasons will speak to your lack of faith in Jesus Christ.

John chapter 12 beginning with Vs 37 (Read 12:37-42)

Prayer

(1D) In dealing with these reasons for unbelief ~~which we find in these last few verses~~ <sup>of unbelief</sup>, I would like you to notice in Verses 37-41 that this unbelief involved the revelation of the O.T. Because what is happening in the first 11 chapters of John according to these few verses is not mere happenings. It is a direct fulfillment of O.T. prophecy.

You see, if all the world had received Jesus, the Bible would not have been fulfilled. Because, the Bible says and teaches that the world would not responded to the first coming of Jesus Christ.

It is an amazing thing. And what actually was happening, although you see these men plotting and counseling to kill Jesus, yet behind it all was the plan of God. Prophecy was being fulfilled. It is exactly what God intended. I want you to notice two things *concerning The Revelation of The O.T.*

**(1E)** First of all, the prediction of people not believing the miracles. Verse 37 and 38. (read).

*vs 38*  
That is a quote from Isa chapter 53. The great text about the Messiah who would come and suffer. The lamb being led to the slaughter and who would bear all *the* iniquities in his own body, who would be *wounded* for *our* transgressions, that great chapter begins with the words, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVELED?"

That is also quoted in Romans chapter 10:16. *You see Romans*  
~~as the Bible~~ *lays out*  
God's plan of salvation and says, "How shall they hear, except they have a preacher? and how shall they preach unless they are sent? and how beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things. LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?"

Now, this quote is referring to two things.

**(1F.)** One, to the miracles of Christ, and **(1F)** secondly, to his teaching. When it says, "who has believed our report?" that is dealing with his teaching. And when it says, "to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" This is referring to his miracles. The arm of the Lord emphasizing his power.

*also*  
In Verse 37 there is an interesting word. It is the word "before" It says, "He had performed many signs before them."

And it is one of the stronger prepositions in the Greek language. It is a very strong word and it means: IN THERE ACTUAL PRESENCE, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

You see, the people actually ~~saw~~ those miracle performed right in their presence. It was *not* hear say. They didn't see them from a distance.

There wasn't a cloud or a doubt in their mind about what happened. NO!  
 It was clearly a miracle and they saw it. Yet, they still didn't believe.  
 You see, the <sup>Am 42:17</sup> ~~miracle~~ here behind the fact that they didn't believe the signs  
 miracles is ~~that the reason they were not believing~~ <sup>that this was why they didn't</sup> a fulfillment  
 of prophecy. Because you would think under the circumstance, having a  
 miracle performed right under their nose, that they would believe it.  
 But they didn't believe the miracle because it was a fulfillment of prophecy.  
 That is the reason.

(2E) The second thing I want you to notice, here, is the proof as to why  
 they could not believe. Verse 39-41. The proof as to why they could  
 not believe.

(IF) The Bible says, Vs 39, "FOR THIS CAUSE THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE."  
 The text literally <sup>reads</sup> says, "they were not able to be believing." They didn't  
 have the power to believe.

WHY?....Because Isaiah says again, Vs 40, 'he has blinded their eyes  
 and he hardened their heart; lest they see with their eyes, and perceive  
 with their heart, and be converted, and I heal them.'

<sup>Just see,</sup> No person has the will or the ability to believe in Christ. It takes  
 God's power to cause a person to believe. It takes God's power to break  
 the hardness of people hearts and the blindness of their eyes. Only God  
 can do that.

However, there is something else you should know. This passage  
 which quotes from Isaiah chapter 6:10, this passage quoted in its content  
 deals with the commission that God gave to Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah  
 saw the Lord in all of his glory. Then he saw his own sinfulness and  
 said "woe is me for I am a man unclean."

Then God cleansed Isaiah and said to him, "Whom shall I send and  
 who will go." And Isaiah said, "here am I, send me."

And on the basis of that commitment, God quotes to him what <sup>you</sup> have  
 recorded in John 12. And that is "go and tell these people that they  
 are not going to respond to ~~you~~.... I am going to harden their hearts,  
<sup>reverse</sup>

I am going to hardened there hearts. I am going to blind their eyes. And they are not going to respond. But you go tell them, anyway.

Some challegne to a man who said, I will go anywhere you want me to go. Here am I, send me. And God said, "GO", ~~but~~ but they are not going to listen.

Now, that quote is used 6 times in the N.T. and each time it is used as a <sup>reason</sup> ~~reason~~ for the unbelief of the Jewish nation. WHY DO JEWS AS A NATIONAL GROUP CONTINUE TO REJECT ONE OF THERE GREATEST SONS? *Why?*  
The answer is not because the evidence is not there, ~~I do not believe that.~~  
The answer is because prophecy is being fulfilled. The Bible teaches that they will not believe. There hearts will be hardened. There eyes will be blinded.

And the question is WHY? Why did God blind the hearts, and ~~the~~ eyes of the Jewish Nation? LISTEN, THIS OUGHT TO EXCIT YOU. You know why God blinded their eyes? So, that you and I could be saved...Did you know that?  
The Bible teaches that, in Romans chapter 11: ~~11~~, that blindness has happened unto Israel until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled. The Bible teaches that even though Israel rejected and God blinded their minds, ~~to it~~, yet now they as the real olive tree ( a symbol of Israel's national hope) because of their rejection, Gentile have been brought into that true olive tree. And they are like a wide olive branch, says the Bible. It is a fasinating story. I am sorry that I do not have time to develop it in Romans chapter 11. But, the point is, through Israel's rejection, the whole world has now heard the gospel. It is fantastic. Through their rejecting Christ, christ dieing on the cross, christ paying for sin, now millions through all nations have come to believe on christ.

It is interesting when you consider prophecy <sup>why</sup> ~~why~~ God hardened the hearts of the nation of Israel. There are still individual Jews who believe. Even in the time of Christ, and even today. And we thank God for that. But as a nation they have rejected him. WHY?...This blindness, so that the gospel whuld go to all nations. ~~So that the gospel would go to all nations.~~

*But, let me tell you something,*

~~But~~ the blindness will one day be over. The Bible says that one day Christ will return again and take the scales off of there eyes. And they are going to look upon him who ~~they~~ have pierced. And they will all as a nation mourn for him, as one mourns for an only son. And one day all Israel will be saved as a nation. And that is still coming. <sup>But</sup> The blindness is because of prophecy and it is ~~proved~~ <sup>proven</sup> because of Isaish 6:10.

(2F) Now, I notice that there is an interesting connections of words here ~~in~~ Vs 40 of John 12. He indicates that they will not see with their eyes or understand with their hearts or be converted or be healed.

If you look at that verse you will notice a progression of thought. He blinds there ~~eyes~~, the second thing that happens is that he hardens their hearts. The thrird thing is that they cannot see. Because of this they cannot understand least they be converted, least he heal them.

So, backing <sup>up</sup>. They wouldn't be healed unless they were converted. They wouldn't be converted untless they understood with their hearts. And they wouldn't understand unless they could see with their eyes. And the problem is that God has blinded their ~~eyes~~ and hardened their hearts.

So, this passage teaches me this: <sup>Here is the applicat</sup> God .. is .. in charge . of . who is .. believing. God is in charge. And no person can in and of himself believe. It takes God's power to ~~resurrect~~ <sup>resurrect</sup> him because he is spiritual dead. And it ~~is~~ God's power which will bring a person from the dead and remove the scales from his eyes.

This passage teaches us that <sup>ph. l. v. s. Psychological</sup> man is unable to save himself and to believe apart from God's power. And if you find within your heart right today that there is an urge to believe in Christ you had better thank God for it. You had better hang on to it. You had better do something about it. Because God in his grace and mercy is giving you the ability, now, to believe. And if you find that you are being pulled towards Christ, and you really want to believe the gospel, you want to get your life strightened out, ~~to want to~~ <sup>and to</sup> know that you have eternal life and complete forgiveness, listen if that hope is in your heart, then respond to it.

God is giving you the ability to believe. And you had better respond to it. *Now is the Day of Salvation*

*37* ~~Now~~, there is a great blessing, here, for the christian who desires to see ~~this~~ / this in Vs ~~41~~. Because the verse says, "these things **Isaiah** said, because he saw His glory, and he ~~saw~~ spoke of Him."

Now, I believe that God was Jesus Christ manifested in the flesh. I believe that. I believe the Bible teaches that. I believe that the Gospel of John was written to prove the deity of Christ. That, ~~He~~ *Jesus* truly is God in human flesh. The God who made us, invaded this ~~planet~~ *planet* as a man to show us his love. I don't ~~know~~ *know* of a passage in John that ~~show~~ *show* marvelously teaches the deity of christ as John 12:41. And yet very few notice it or comment upon it. ~~That~~ *Vs 41* ~~verse~~ teaches the diety of Jesus Christ. ~~Why?~~ *How?*

Will you take your Bibles and turn back to Isaiah chapter 6, and ~~look~~ *lets* look at the story ourselves. John says that this quote about God hardening peoples hearts, that Isaiah heard this when he saw his glory and spoke of him. Isaiah, please, chapter 6:1

"In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne" Now, let me ask you a question: WHO IS HE TALKING ABOUT?..... Stop and think amoment....In the year of King Uzziah's death, ~~Isaiah~~ *Isaiah* say, in that year ~~he~~ *he* saw the Lord . *Who is He Talking about*  
(read 6:1-8)

Now, who did Isaiah see?

You know, before I studied John, I always thought he saw the heavenly **Faither**. Why? Because he was setting on the throne. And all the angels of God were worshipping him. ~~?~~

But, John 12:41 says ~~through divine inspiration~~ that it was Jesus that Isaiah saw. When Isaiah saw his glory and spoke of him. That is the context of John 12.

SO, when the angels said "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts." It was of Jesus they said that. ~~Isn't that fantastic....~~ *Isn't that fantastic....*

*Isaiah says that it was Jesus!!!*

John says that it was Jesus that Isaiah saw. Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus and spoke of Him.

This caused me to take a new look at Isaiah chapter 6. And I know that I am not teaching Isaiah 6 this morning. But, I can't help but refer to it. <sup>Do</sup> You know, <sup>what</sup> happened when Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus? <sup>?</sup> He exalted Him and put Him in His right place over everything. And he saw himself as he really was....undone..unclean. Then, he realized <sup>what</sup> God wanted from him. And that was: TOTAL COMMITMENT.....WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO SHALL GO.....

So, let's back up and think for a moment about christian commitment. And why some of us are not willing to do what God wants us to do. Whether it be tithing or coming forward to receive Christ as Saviour. You know, some folks let this Moncho image keep from coming forward and receiving Christ as Saviour. And that Moncho image is going to ~~keep~~ you out-off havean and send you to Hell.

<sup>But</sup>, the reason we are not willing to do what God wants us to do is because we have never examined the glory of Christ.

You say, <sup>u</sup> Hay! I believe in Christ...Yes, maybe you do! But, maybe you have not seen Him in all of His glory. <sup>Christ</sup> on the throne. Maybe you have not seen your sinfulness in the light of His presence. That you are unworthy of Him. ~~Maybe~~ you have not seen the fact that God takes an unworthy, sinful vessel and pours His power and glory into that life. Maybe all of your talent that you could use for God is lieing <sup>d</sup> adorment, simply because you have not seen the glory of Christ. And the Bible says that ~~that~~ <sup>His</sup> glory has shinned into the hearts of believers. And that glory is a Holy Glory. The angels sang: "HOLY...HOLY...HOLY..."

Jesus said to the believer, "Be ye holy for I am holy." NOW, WHAT DID HE MEAN BY HOLINESS? Holiness or santification means "to be set apart."

You see, it is an act of God by which He sets you apart. It is a process of God by which he sets you apart for himself and for His use.

Now, the question is: HAVE YOU PERMITTED THAT TO HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE? Have you, like the angels, fallen down in His presence and said: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...LORD GOD OF HOSTS."

Have you determined to worship Him with all of your heart and mind and strength? Have you made Him number one in your life?

It is no reason why we lack commitment. It is understandable why we fail to tith and why we find it hard to serve christ and to witness <sup>To invite and bring people to christ</sup>. The reason is simple. We refuse to see Christ in His glory. Our sinful pride keeps us from falling at His feet as the angels did and worshipping Him. Our pride keeps us from saying: "LORD, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE. WHAT EVER YOU WANT IN MY LIFE THAT IS WHAT I ~~WANT~~ WILL DO.

*What* My job, my school, my boyfriend, my girlfriend, my family, I give it all to you.

*You see* ~~Because~~ we have not seen our sinfulness and our pride, and this causes us to continue to see some worthy in us. Instead of realizing that we are all sinners. And we will demonstrate and prove that fact over and over again.

What we need is the power of God. <sup>Not</sup> ~~Not~~ our worth, not our abilities, not our talents, but the glory and the power of God in an earthy vessel. That is what the world needs to see. They need to look at sinners who have been cleansed by God's power and love. People who see God's glory.

I wonder if that is the reason behind your commitment or lack of commitment? John 12 teaches that unbelief comes when we fail to see the glory of Christ.

Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God of Hosts.

Shall we pray