

The Glory of Jesus that Led to Hardening

John 12:37-50 ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 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?” 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.” ⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. 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. ⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

❖ Brief Recap

❖ Intro

- **My Prayer is that you have come to learn of God today.**
 - And that you are truly seeking to know Him better.
 - There is a lot of information for you in this sermon today.
 - Many glorious things about God and sad things about men that lead to glorious things about God that means the His children, His called will reap the benefits of God being glorified
- **Means little if you do not see the connection between what is going on here in Ch. 12**
 - And your own self
 - Or the people around you
 - Or the world around you
- **So... I am hoping we can learn terrible and glorious things today**
 - I say terrible because I think they are in one sense...
 - Things that should cause us to tremble over our own inabilities before God.
 - Glorious because all these things lead to Jesus Christ being exalted over all things...
- **See the connection.... I will point it out...**

❖ Much Proof Little Belief

- ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,
- So this will End the public ministry of Jesus... no longer in John will you hear Him teaching the crowds
- We have seen all the signs since ch 1 of John all the way down to here at the end of 12...
 - Amazing things... and there was so much more that John will say later
 - All the books in the world could not hold what would be written about Him...
- He miraculous works and sign after sign were not enough to get the people to believe...
 - And the reason given for this is in vs 38

❖ Too Hard To Believe

- 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?”
- **Quote from Isaiah 53 (we are going to look in great detail in a minute)**

- Isaiah is asking the question who has believed the message?
- I think John is asking the same thing...
- Almost realizing that this Jesus is so glorious and so amazing that the people miss it...
- Almost as if He is saying... Who can believe this...?
 - I say this because of this verse...
 - ◆ Isaiah 43:18-19¹⁸ “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

➤ And now we see why it was so hard for them to believe...

❖ They Could Not Believe

- ³⁹Therefore 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.”
- They were unable...
- God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts...
 - So they could not see, nor could they understand...
 - And if they would see and understand...
 - He would Heal them
- **We are going to look at How God hardened their hearts...**
 - And we will see, I believe, the glory of God in doing this... How He hardened them
 - And the responsibility placed solely on these men for being hardened by God...
 - And how they could have seen and understood if they would have just opened their eyes...

❖ Answering the First Three Points...

- Why was their so little belief after so many proofs?
- Why Was it too Hard for them to believe?
- Why Couldn't They Believe?
- Our Answer is Explained in vs 41
 - And then further by looking at the two chapters that John quotes in his gospel from the book of Isaiah.
 - It is very interesting to see how the New testament writers used the O.T. to explain what is going on...

❖ The Glory of Jesus that Isaiah Saw and How it Led to their Unbelief

- ⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.
- **So Isaiah first asks the question...Who has believed us... Who has believed what we have had to say...**
 - Its as if Isaiah is baffled that they do not understand while at the same time
 - He is amazed at the work He is seeing God do.
 - **And secondly Isaiah states that they haven't believed His words because God has hardened their hearts and blinded their eyes...**
 - Two very interesting statements in the book of John...
 - Of all the things John could quote... He quotes these verses...
 - John is trying to explain what is going on around Him...
 - And also I think He is trying to warn people of the danger of not believing.
- **John is quoting Isaiah 6 and Isaiah 53...**
 - And in these two chapters in the book of Isaiah,
 - Isaiah sees the glory of God...
 - But He sees in it two completely different and amazing ways...
 - And you are going to see that this is what made believing so hard

- And God's hardening of their hearts so easy...
- **John is saying... that Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus...**
 - Remember this section of scripture starts out with Jesus hiding himself from the crowd
 - Then John is saying that even though He did many miracles... many did not believe...
 - So He is explaining why they did not believe in Jesus...
 - And He references Isaiah seeing HIS... as in Jesus.... Glory.... The Glory of Jesus...
 - Lets look at what He says...
- **Isaiah 6 – Going to look at briefly...**
 - The King of Israel has died...
 - And Isaiah, was allowed by God to see into heaven....
 - He is not the only on that had this happen to Him... And He records what He saw
 - **Isaiah 6:1-5** ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"
 - **Then Isaiah's sins are taken from Him, because of the alter in heaven...**
 - Signifying the sacrifice to be made for the people of God...
 - **He hears God's voice asking... who will go for us...**
 - And Isaiah volunteers... Here Am I he says... send me...
 - **Then God gives him a mission**
 - **Isaiah 6:9-10** ⁹ And he said, "Go, and say to this people: " "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive." ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."
 - **Isaiah is about to go on a mission where few will believe what He has to say....**
 - Because as we see... they hear but don't understand, see but do not perceive...
 - Their hearing is dull, ears heavy, eyes blind...
 - Therefore they are not healed...
 - **So Isaiah sees Jesus there in all His glory... High and lifted up...**
 - Then He sees Jesus in a different way...
 - And this is where people got confused...
- **Isaiah 53 – Going to look at the whole Chapter...**
 - After talking of the of gentiles and their kings in ch 52.... Not Jewish people...
 - These gentiles... Were going to believe in this message...
 - Then He shifts gears toward speaking about the Jewish people and their suffering servant
- **Isaiah 53:1-12** ¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 - Who has believed this message is what Isaiah is asking... He says... He is telling the message, but He doesn't know who is going to believe it...
 - ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- Messiah would grow up, have no form or majesty... that we should look at Him
- No beauty that we should desire him...
- You see the problem is that this person Isaiah is speaking of didn't look the part...
- He did not appeal to the people by outward appearance... Nothing special about him to make folks look at Him...
- Nothing about Him to make people desire Him by outward appearances...
- In fact... He would be despised... they would see a man of sorrows and grief...
- They did not esteem Him as anything special, but rather hid their faces from him...
- They turned away from Him when He was despised...
- How sad...?
- ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
 - Even though He was carrying the peoples greifs and sorrows...
 - ◆ They just thought He was being cursed by God for something He had done...
 - ◆ When it was because of something we had done..
- ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.
 - Isaiah clears it up, saying... it wasn't his fault...
 - His wounds were because of our sins, he was crushed because of our failures
 - He was chastised or beaten or disciplined to bring us peace... so we would be healed...
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - So the people reject Him... and they go their own way and scatter like sheep...
 - People of the world have turned away from serving God, and are born that way...
 - Yet it was on this servant that God places the people's sins...
- ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
 - Although He was being afflicted on our behalf, He said not a word about it...
 - He let it happen...
- ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
 - We see that it was through the oppression and judgment of the Pharisees that night Jesus was arrested that He was taken away...
 - They saw Him and passed the death penalty on Him...
 - He would be cut off... or killed... with wicked men... and placed in the rich man's tomb...
 - Not because he did anything wrong... But because the leaders measured Him and did not see what was in front of them...
- ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
 - Then we see that it was God's will all along to crush Him and put Him to grief
 - So that through His death He would make an offering for sins or guilt...
 - And He will see those who become His children...
 - After He is raised from the grave...
 - And he will be prosperous in this...

- ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.
 - Although His soul was in anguish... and we saw that last week as He said
 - ◆ What shall I say, Father save me from this hour...
 - But instead He is satisfied because He knows that through bearing our sins...
 - ◆ He will make many who do not deserve it, who are unrighteous... He will make them right with God...
- ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.
 - And since He died for the sins of many and makes intercession for these sinful people...
 - ◆ God will give Him much... And will glorify Him greatly.
 - **All of this was written 750 ish years before Jesus was born...**
 - ◆ There was plenty of time for them to read it... right
- **ONE DAY.... These verses will open up with such clarity in Israel**
 - That they will be amazed at how they never saw it before...
 - And it will be a glorious thing...

➤ **The Reason for the People's Unbelief**

- 1) They were not expecting a lowly man that was going to die
- 2) They could not get past His claims of being God

➤ **If they had just meditated on the book of Isaiah**

- They would have seen both...
- They would have seen the glorious God seated on His throne
- They would have seen the suffering servant with no form...
 - Being rejected and despised.
- Yet dying for His people that believed on Him...

➤ **Summary:**

- **Isaiah foresaw the people's rejection of the Messiah...**
 - He foresaw their rejection of the message of salvation through the Messiah...
- **Isaiah foresaw that God would harden their hearts so they could not believe...**
 - And He saw how God would do that...
- **God hardened their hearts and blinded their eyes by**
 - Giving them what they were not expecting, yet should have been ready for...
 - He knew the pride of these people would not accept a Messiah that was
 - ◆ Meek and lowly, and **with no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.**
 - ◆ Nor were they going to accept someone like that that claimed to be God...
- **God planned this so they would kill Him...**
 - They did not have to reject Him... They did not have to look at Him at dismiss Him...
 - Remember... All the works He did...
 - And some people believed Him and followed Him.... Some saw who He was...
 - Remember the clarity of the O.T. prophecies concerning Jesus
 - They could have studied a little better...
 - In the previous verses they argued with Him about the Messiah not dying...
 - ◆ They had heard from the Law...
 - ◆ But they hadn't gotten that right...

➤ **Application**

- **The Same premise applies today when people are confronted with the Gospel...**
 - Repentance and Faith... although they sound good at times, doesn't appeal to many..
 - Because it means humility and complete submission to God
- **We want power over our ability to get to heaven.**
 - We may not admit that...
 - So we build up religions and ways to heaven in our mind
 - That suit our personal desires...
 - Or we flock to religions and gods that make sense to us...
 - Because they allow us to put in effort to make us right with God...
 - They put the power right back into our hands...
- **Some of our gods are very legalistic, while others allow us to do whatever we please almost**
 - As long as we settle up at some point...
- **We do this.... Because man loves man's glory**
 - We love religions that exalt man's efforts by telling him that His deeds earn Him grace with a god or gods.
- **Israel rejected Jesus because he didn't suit their idea for what God should be**
 - And today many reject Jesus because He doesn't suit their idea of who God is...
 - Or worse... they accept a **jesus** that someone, maybe themselves has conformed to their image

❖ **The Sad Way Many Believe**

- 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.
- **Previously I thought these men unsaved...**
 - The reason I would say this is because of Romans 10.9 that says we must confess with our mouth
 - And also Jesus saying our denial of Him would cause His denial of us...
 - But it does not say these men denied Him... Rather they believed without confessing...
- **So... worst some of these men are not saved...**
 - But at best these men are saved yet their faith is very weak...
- **Proof: Even Peter and the disciples believed but were weak and hesitant to confess their belief in Him..**
 - Peter even denies that He knew Jesus...
 - Then all of the disciples are lacking themselves in a room because they are afraid of being found out...
- **It would be unwise of us to assume we understand what is going on**
 - and the hardness that surrounded these people in the case of coming to belief in Jesus...
- **The Resurrection sealed the Deal for His believers...**
 - So, maybe these guys are a little fearful here... but just like the disciples... After they hear of and see the resurrection of Jesus...
 - They forget the glory of man and seek the glory of God...
- **Nonetheless...**
 - John does not give them a free pass... for John followed Jesus to the cross... Although he was fearful it seems and was in the room hiding with the disciples as well...
 - He says they believed... But they would not confess...
 - And the reason is because they loved the glory of man...
- **You can not get saved today... If you are afraid to profess Jesus as Lord...**
 - I explained my hesitancy to now judge the eternal salvation of these men due to other considerations...

- But you do not stand there in those days under those circumstances...
- You stand here having heard of this Jesus, and hearing of His resurrection
- And the Holy Spirit pleading with your heart to believe these things...
- And today we are called to confess Jesus as Lord and follow Him...
- This you must do to be saved...
- **And this you must do to remain saved...**
 - **Be careful you who claim to be His child... Remember the warnings of Hebrews...**
 - ◆ Hebrews 3:12-14 ¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
 - ◆ Oh that you remember this verse and allow it to sit heavy in your mind and on your heart

❖ The Last Public Words of Jesus

- Here we come to Jesus last teaching and preaching words Publicly
- You can almost consider them a sort of Summary of His Ministry...
 - Here them and understand the weight of them...

❖ Not the Same God Anymore

- **As we look at what Jesus is saying...**
 - You need to know that the Jewish people as a whole do not serve the same God as we do...
 - Those who follow Judaism... They have rejected Him...
 - Yes.. He used to be their God as a nation, but when He came to them He was rejected...
- **They believe in a false God now...**
 - Although they speak of the true God that delivered them out of Egypt...
 - But make no mistake...
 - When they rejected Jesus, they turned away from God Himself...

❖ The Unique Oneness Of the Father and Son and How that Relates to a World that Falsely Believes in God

- ⁴⁴And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.
- **Jesus again claims His oneness with the Father... You can not escape this...**
 - Over and over again He does this...
 - And it was important for the people of Israel to hear Jesus say that He has come from the God...
- **They are one... so much so that Jesus can say...**
 - If you believe in me you believe in Him
 - If you see me, you see Him...
- **Tells Philip the same thing...**
 - Philip asks to see the Father... Jesus says..
 - John 14:9 ⁹...“Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
- **Unless You Believe that Jesus is God... and trust things you can not understand...**
 - You can’t believe on Christ.

❖ Jesus Coming Was to Help You See What You Cannot See

- ⁴⁶I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
- **He Summarizes His purpose again...**

- It is to bring light into a dark world... so we do not remain there in the darkness.
- He is speaking spiritually... Of this sin and deception that has covered the world...
- **The sin and deception are built on lies of who God is and who we are and our responsibility to Him**
 - But Jesus brings light, he brings the truth of who God is...
 - And shares with us His nature and what our response must be toward Him
 - So our sins will be taken away...

❖ **The Judgment of the Word of God and How We are Especially Vulnerable**

- ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- **Jesus is saying... He didn't come to judge but to save...**
 - But His words will judge...
- He says... if I am rejected.... My words will judge you in that final day...
- **We are especially vulnerable because:**
 - We have heard so much so many times...
 - The more you hear the more terrible your not listening will be...
- We have no excuse...

❖ **Jesus Spoke on Authority From the Father To Give Us His Command for Eternal Life**

- ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”
- Finally Jesus reiterates who Has given Him authority...
 - The Jewish people understood God as their Father... and they needed to hear that he has come from the Father...
- Jesus ends by telling them... That the command that the Father gave Him is Eternal Life...
 - Jesus has spoken to them on how to gain eternal life...
- Goes back to this question that the Jewish people asked Jesus in John 6
 - **John 6:28-29** ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

❖ **Invitation**

- Believe on Him
- Renew Your belief in Him... Repent of your lack of faith and following your master