

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

The Love of Man
John 12:37-43
January 8, 2023

...for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. - John 12:43

I. STUBBORN UNBELIEF

- In spite of the many signs that Jesus had performed before the people, the vast majority refused to believe (John 6:41-42, 7:5, 40-43, 8:48, 10:31, 12:37).
- Sin becomes the punishment for sin. This idea runs through the New Testament (Matt. 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40; Acts 28:26-27; Rom. 1:24-25, 11:8; 2 Cor. 3:14; 2 Pet. 2:10-22).
- The prophet Isaiah saw both the glory of Christ and the people's stubborn refusal to believe (Isa. 6:10; 53:1; John 12:41).

II. A COWARDLY FAITH

- Not everyone rejected Jesus, but many who believed refused to stand up and be counted (John 3:1, 7:13, 9:22, 12:42).
- The great fear for the Jews of Jesus' day was to be "put out of the synagogue." It was a real and significant threat (John 9:22, 12:42, 16:1-4).
- Our love for God must eclipse our love of man. Our belief must outpace our desire for peace and safety (Ps. 15:4; Heb. 10:36-39).

KNOW: For so many, our love for this world overrides our love for God. Therefore, we either do not believe, or we do not believe enough.

DO: Believe in Jesus. Stand into that belief, even if it hurts.

Suggested Reading:

Hand in Hand: The Beauty of God's Sovereignty and Meaningful Human Choice by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 12:37-43

1. Our text today begins with Jesus hiding himself from the Jewish crowds. Why does he do that?
2. The people, by and large, would not believe. Does that seem to surprise John? Explain your answer.
3. Why is it that, in spite of the evidence, people refuse to place their faith in Christ?
4. How could Isaiah, who lived 700 years before Christ, have seen his glory?
5. The Jews feared their countrymen and their rulers. Why? And why do we fear people so much?
6. How can we become people who love God more than we love this world? Any steps you have considered?