

John 12:37-50 – Continued Unbelief

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“If I had seen Jesus heal the sick, feed the 5000, calm the storm, give sight to the blind, enable the lame to walk and raised the dead then and only then would I properly believe.”

1) How could they not believe?

John 3:2, *“we know you are a teacher who has come from God for no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him”.*

John 12:37, people simply would not believe.

John 12:39, they could not believe

Isaiah’s response - Isaiah 63:15-17, *“Look down from heaven and see from your lofty throne, holy and glorious. Where are your zeal and your might? Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us. But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our redeemer from on old is your name. Why, O Lord, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance.”*

2) Jesus defiance in the face of unbelief

A promise and a warning

The Promise - Belief in Jesus moves you out of darkness and into light.

Verse 46, *“I have come into the world as light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness”.*

The Warning – Verse 48 ... condemnation on the last day.

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A verse out of context?

John 12:47, “As for the person who 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 it”

See also John 3:15 & John 8:15

See John 3:18 and John 8:16 – not individual judgement but both Father and Son working together

For us today

There are three big areas I will address

Firstly God word helps us in evangelism.

Sub point 1 - Speak to God about people before you speak to people about God

Sub point 2 - Evangelism is all about faithful proclamation of the gospel not numbers of souls saved.

Sub point 3 - Evangelism is also calling on people to respond to the words Jesus has spoken.

Secondly, the danger of looking for approval from others.

Thirdly, the promise and challenge from Jesus.