

Jesus' Final Words

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John 12:34-50

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Stumbling Over the Messiah

- Crowd confused by Jesus' words - questioned Him
- Different expectation of the Messiah - no death³², forgot^{Isaiah 53:3,5,8; Zech 3:7, etc.}
- Jesus simply doesn't answer their unbelief but gives them a warning!

Jesus' Final Public Appeal

- This is Jesus' LAST public appeal to Israel - words of mercy...
- First we have a reminder that Jesus is the world's light^{1:4-5,9;8:12}
- Second we find a challenge: walk while you have the light³⁵ believe in the light³⁶
- Jesus calls His hearers to BELIEVE^{In 20:31} see the signs and believe
- Jesus came to be lifted up^{12:32} and be the Lamb of God^{1:29}
- We are called to do more than believe but we are called to walk³⁵ - action
- Third a Warning: lest the darkness overtake you³⁵
- Leaders knew miracles of sight to blind^{In 9} and dead raised^{In 11} but rejected
- They were now culpable and do not know where they were going³⁵
- Lastly a glorious promise: that you may become sons of light³⁶

John Shows Us a New Chapter

- Jesus departed and hid Himself³⁶ public ministry was over!
- If only they had known what they were rejecting...
- John answers that the prophet Isaiah prophesied this would happen³⁷
- John quotes Isaiah 53:1 in v38 - words that introduce great 53rd chapter^{53:2,3}
- Who has believed? No one! 53 shows consequence of failure to believe
- Logic: Messiah sent, rejected by men^{53:3}; God's plan^{53:11} to redeem His people
- John showing us Jesus spoke³⁶ but people did not believe³⁷
- John^{12:40} is not relieving man from responsibility to believe - God made me
- Humanity left God in Adam^{1Cor 15:21-22; Rm 3:10-12; 5:1-2} prefer their own will
- Does Isaiah^{6:10} say God blinds men? No - He judges
- It is God's right to do as He pleases^{Rm 9:9-16} we don't get to question God^{Rm 9:20-23}
- But that is not what John is teaching...

John's Teaching

- What is more biblical A) men may choose God, but God singles out some whose minds He closes and are therefore damned OR B) since Adam all are unable to choose God, but God graciously intervenes to open some eyes to truth and as a result these men are saved? B is the biblical answer - Jesus^{In 6:44}
- It is not necessary for God to blind anyone - men begin blind from Adam
- It is only by grace ANY come
- So John's logic: they STILL did not believe after seeing Jesus words & signs
- The focus is on God's judicial activity against their unbelief.
- John 1st quotes Isa^{53:1} then Isa^{6:9-10} just like Isaiah prophesied they would see, but they would NOT believe³⁷, because of that they then could not believe³⁹. They were too full of themselves. They rejected Jesus' final words³⁵⁻³⁶
- Paul Romans^{1:22-28} God gave them up... God gave Israel up to darkness³⁵
- So why doesn't God save all? Who knows? Romans 11:33-36
- John points to God's glory⁴¹. Hope: even some believed but feared⁴²
- Beware of fear of man – look to God's glory as the anti-dote!