

SERMON OUTLINE John 12:36-43

Why People Don't Believe in Jesus

WHY DON'T PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS ACCORDING TO 1-12:35?

WHY DON'T PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS ACCORDING TO 12:36-43?

To Fulfill Prophecy (37-38)

Because of God's Activity (39-40)

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THESE THINGS?

Learn that God is Not to Be Trifled With

Learn that God is Right to Judge the World

Learn that the Gospel Call Is for Everyone

Be Filled with Hope

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of John 12:36-43 is that God is sovereign even over the unbelief of the lost. And the three main takeaways for us are to learn the fear of the LORD, learn the rightness of God's judgment, and place our hope wholly in the mercy of God..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Why don't people believe in Jesus? Did this passage/sermon change your answer at all?
3. How do you feel about the fact that God is sovereign over unbelief?
4. Which of the passages that Pastor Dave read concerning the reason for unbelief stood out to you the most? Why?
5. Which of the two answers from our passage seems most significant to you (to fulfill prophecy or because of God's activity)?
6. Do you view unbelief as the necessary result of our sin and the just punishment for it? Do you understand judgment as just and forgiveness as grace? Do you recognize that our sinful natures are such that apart from God's intervening grace, no one will believe in Jesus? Can you see that our natural state is such that all of us love the glory of man more than the glory of God? Have you fallen into the lie of believing you deserve anything other than the consuming fire of God?
7. Which of the takeaways do you most need to apply?
8. Does this passage discourage you or give you hope?
9. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Pray in greater earnestness for the unbelievers in your life. Make a list and pray through it fervently.
11. Share the gospel with at least one of the people on your list. Remember that God is sovereign over their belief and unbelief.
12. As a means of strengthening your faith, spend some time studying one OT prophecy that the NT explicitly claims to fulfill.
13. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 carefully and prayerfully. Share whatever you find with someone in your DG.
14. Find a passage in the Bible that gives you hope. Share that with someone who is suffering.
15. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
16. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for being sovereign over all things—belief and unbelief alike. Praise God for being glorious and personal. Praise God for being wise and good. Praise God for being a perfect promise-keeper. Praise God for being merciful.
18. Confess. Confess any ways you are doubting God's promises. Confess any ways you are building your life and doctrine on your own common sense rather than the Word of God. Confess any ways you have been afraid of men more than God.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank God for granting you belief. Thank God for giving us answers to life's most pressing questions. Thank God for giving you the chance to be an instrument of belief in the lives of unbelievers. Thank God for giving hope.
20. Supplication. Ask God to save the unbelievers in your life. Ask God to fill you with growing belief in all His promises. Ask God to comfort the hopeless. Ask God to humble the proud leaders who don't believe they need to believe.