



SERIES: John Believe
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Monday, March 13, 2023
Scripture: John 12:37-43
TITLE: Unbelief Fulfilled

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we will talk about unbelief fulfilled.

We are continuing in the Gospel of John 12:37-43 which reads:

Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 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?” Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “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.”

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. 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; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

This was the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, also known as Passion Week. Jesus is in Jerusalem making one last plea to those who would hear Him, because the light is about to go out. The time is almost up when Jesus will no longer be with them. On Friday, He'll be crucified. Christ's entire ministry, all of His miracles and teachings have come down to this. So the Lord calls the people to turn and become sons of light while they still can, otherwise they'll be lost to darkness.

Let's remember all the things Christ had done up to this point. He turned water into wine. He fed thousands with only some fish and loaves. He walked on water. He commanded the seas and it obeyed Him. He made the blind man see. He made the lame man walk. He healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead.

Jesus accomplished so much that even the Pharisees were talking about all the signs He was doing! In the previous chapter they said, “[What are we to do? For this man performs many signs](#)” (John 11:47). Everyone knew about what Jesus did! Everyone was talking about Him! In fact, Jesus did so many things that if they were written in detail the whole world couldn't contain all the books that would be written (John 21:25).

But we see here that, even though He did so many amazing things in their presence, the crowds still wouldn't believe in Him. Their unbelief is simply amazing. How could the Messiah's arrival be accompanied by so many signs yet met with so much opposition from the crowds? I'd like to think if I were there, if I saw even one miracle, I would have believed it. But instead we see that the crowd's unbelief at this time was a fulfillment of prophecy. It was meant to be that way.

God reveals to us here that Isaiah's prophecy about preventing people from seeing and believing was about Jesus Christ and His mission.

This is a hard thing to understand. God is just and merciful. He is good. He doesn't cause anyone to reject Him. But for the purpose of Christ's mission as the sacrificial Lamb on the cross, to pay for the sins of you and I, the people had to be blind. If the crowds had understood with their hearts and believed, maybe they would have tried to stop Christ from heading to that cross!

Yet Jesus knew the purposes of the Father who sent Him. He knew He was to be the Lamb of God from before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-20, Revelation 13:8). This was His message. Peter believed Jesus was the Son of God and when he heard Jesus' plan to die in Jerusalem and rise again on the third day even he tried to stop Him. But Jesus knew His mission. He rebuked Peter for trying to hinder Him (Matthew 16:21-23).

Regardless of this, the saddest thing was that there were many in the crowds, even the authorities, who believed in Jesus but they did not follow their belief. Why? What stopped them? God says they were either more afraid of what other people would think or they had more love for their reputation among people.

Despite the sad fact of the crowd's unbelief, the fulfillment of their unbelief was a needed part of the fulfillment of God's Word. It was fulfilling prophecy regarding Christ's death and resurrection. If what God said didn't come true, where would we be? We should be thankful that our God's Word comes to pass. Because God sent us Jesus Christ, we no longer have to live in unbelief. Don't fear what others will think or what they will do to you. Don't remain in your unbelief, but follow through on your belief in Jesus.