

Title: Reasons for Unbelief

Text: John 12:37-50

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John chapter 12. The Gospel of John chapter 12 beginning with Vs 37. There are notes in your bulletin, and I would encourage you to use them as we study the word of God together. The Gospel of John chapter 12 beginning with Vs 37..

( READ JOHN 12:37-50 )

Prayer

John chapter 12 is really a summary of the public ministry of Jesus. In the first 11 chapters of John, if we were studying this book, we would see the ministry of Jesus as he moved among the people. And we would see His miracles and his wonderful manifestation to the world that He was God in human flesh. That he was the only saviour of the world.

And we would also discover that some folks believed in Jesus as God; but many did not believe in him.

And it is no different today, especially during this Christmas season. Today, as well as in the days of Jesus, when people are confronted with the miracle of Christmas, some believe, but many do not.

Have you ever ask yourself WHY? Why is it so easy for some folks to believe, and confess their sin, and receive the Lord as Saviour....And yet, it is so hard for others?

Well, Jesus gives us the answers. And they are found here in this 12th chapter of John. And I want to share them with you. Because if you are using of these reason, then I hope you will repent and turn your life over to the Lord

(1 ) Now, the first reason why people <sup>developed</sup> ~~develop~~ unbelief is because of their resistance to others. There resistance to others. We read in vs 42 that many of the rulers believed in Jesus. Now, that is quite a statement. Especially since the chief rulers were meeting together to plot the death of Jesus. Yet, here it says that many of the rulers believe, "But because of the pharisees ~~the~~ they were not confessing him, least they should be put out of the synagogue."

The Pharisees were controlling the synagogue. And the synagogue represented all of life...socially as well as religiously. <sup>v343</sup> "For they loved the praise of men rather than the praise of God."

Two things here that I want you to know.

(1E) One, this resistance of others effected their public confession of Christ

This verse really stood out in my mind. The resistance of people to them, namely the Pharisees and the results of being put out off the synagogue, effected their public confession of Christ.

In other words, what was there sin?.....They compromised....They were chief rulers and they tried to be secret service Christians. They were afraid of the consequences of being rejected by their friends and there piros....That sounds all to familiar, doesn't it?

Public confession of Jesus Christ as LOrd and Saviour. I believe in it. Whether it is in this church as we urge all those who truely believe in Christ to publicly acknowledge their faith, or <sup>i</sup>it is else where.

You see, public confession of faith shouldn't end in church. It should take place in your business. In your homes. At school. In the market place. [I wonder how many people go to work on Monday morning and try to play the role of secret service christian? Oh, you know Christ, but you never tell anyone. Thus, you compromise and do everything possible to keep your faith quiet.

Our fear in witnessing doesn't come from wrong methods...Oh no...our fear in witnessing deals with our self-acceptance by others.

Now, the greatest approval and the greatest acceptance that a person can ever know is that God has accepted him. And that God has approved of him. And no matter what is said, the issue is ~~that~~ <sup>what</sup> God thinks, not what man thinks. And when we come to the point of thinking more about God than man, then we will become a witnessing body.....

(2E) Something else, here, not only does this resistance to others effect their confession of Christ, but it also effected their commitment to Christ.

*And maybe this is true of ~~your~~ <sup>our</sup> life, also.*

Notice, Vs 43, "they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God." You see, it effected their commitment. Instead of wanting the praise of God and the commendation of God, they wanted the praise of people.

You know, dear friends, your commitment will be weak when that is your point of view or your concern. At that point where you want the praise of men, you want the approval ~~and commendation~~ of others, instead of the ~~commendation~~ <sup>approval</sup> of God, at that point your commitment is in ~~serious~~ serious danger.

Listen, I know this by experience. Time after time after time it is a test of commitment. If I am desirous of people's approval, if I want people to accept me, if I want what they have to say, if I am afraid of being rejected in anyway, even though I know what the scripture teaches, at that point I will compromise in my commitment. And so will you. And we need to be very careful in understanding this. To love the approval of men rather than <sup>(the)</sup> approval of God. Once you get the word of God into your heart, no matter who says what, you must practice the truth. <sup>you</sup> You must be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

So, unbelief results in a persons life when he is concerned about the approval of others, ~~folks~~.

(3D) O.K. the <sup>new</sup> ~~third~~ reason for unbelief. Beginning with Vs 44 Jesus reveals to us the most serious issue as to why people reject Jesus and why they do not believe. And that is His relationship to the Father. This was true then, and it is true today. The relationship of Jesus to the Father.

It was the issue in the healing of the sick man. It was the issue in the healing of the blind man. It was ~~the~~ the issue in raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus performed ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> miracles and then claimed to be one with the Father. He said "I and the Father are one." And this relationship that he claimed with the Father was a major issue as ~~to~~ why people refused to believe. And it is still a major issue, today. *Because Jesus was claiming to be God. The Christians message - the virgin birth - the admittance of the slyphud - the worship of the cross men all point to the fact that Jesus was God in human flesh*

*New*

I would like you to notice three major things, here.

(1) First of all, in His comments about believing, Vs 44-46.

*Jesus* indications *two* things.

(1) Number one, in Vs 44 and 45 *Jesus* indicates that He is the manifestation of the Father.

If you are going to believe in *Jesus*, you are going to believe in the ~~Heavenly~~ *Father*. In John 14:8-9, Philip said, "show us the Father and we will be happy." Jesus said to Him, " He who has seen me has seen the Father."

You know, that is something very hard, for us to get awholed of, isn't it? The Father's in heaven. Jesus came into the world. He had a human body. How can the two be one? The Tri-unity of God is a very difficult subject. That the Father is God. That the Son is God. That the Holy Spirit is God. But it is even deeper than that. For Christ said that the Father is in me. And I am in Him. That ~~what~~ *what* I say, is, what the Father is speaking. What you are looking at is the heavenly Father. If you are seeing me, *Jesus said* you are seeing the heavenly Father. And the essential unity of the Father and the Son continues to be, even today, a central issue of the Gospel.

Do we believe what Jesus really said? That ~~He~~ *He* is the manifestation of the Father in Heaven. That ~~He is~~ *is* God by way of substance, nature, and essence, in human flesh. It is a miracle. It is amazing.

*But* ~~But~~ it is the foundation of ~~faith~~ *the christian faith*

(2) And secondly, about ~~his~~ / his comments about believing, ~~First~~ First, Jesus is the manifestation of the Father; and second, that he is the method by which we understand the Father.

That really non of us can really understand without Jesus. You know, we couldn't understand the Father if Jesus hadn't come into the world? No way....Jesus said, Vs 46, "I have come as light into the world, that eveyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness."

You willn't be in darkness anymore, *As to who God is* You will see Him who is invisible. *if you believe in Jesus*

You will see Him who is invisible by looking at Him who came into the world, visible.

Everything is based upon the manifestation of God in human form. I am so thankful for that. You know, sometimes when I have been in one of those <sup>" "</sup>intellectual discussions with people who doubt~~z~~ the presence and existence of God. You really begin to question ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> doubt about his existence and his presence, by simple little things like: <sup>"why</sup> ~~why~~ doesn't ~~God~~ <sup>God</sup> do something, a manifestation, openly, Why doesn't ~~God~~ <sup>God</sup> flash some writing on the wall, why is there so much suffering in the world, and on and on it goes.....And when all the smoke clears, boy, am I thankful that ~~God~~ <sup>God</sup> became a man.

~~I~~, I tell you, I would be lost without Him. My mind would be hurting day after day. Trying to figure out and ~~couldn't~~ comprehend the eternal presence of God. That he could be every where at once...That he could have all power. That there isn't anything he couldn't do...That he has never had a beginning or end.....

All of these things that make up God are incomprehensible. And the great truth of the gospel is that God in love showed us, himself, in the person of Jesus Christ. Look at Jesus and you will begin to understand the God of the universe. For God manifested himself to us. It is a tremendous thing. <sup>It is a</sup> ~~It is a~~ <sup>people do not believe</sup> ~~It is a~~ tremendous thing. It was the issue, then, and it is still the issue today!

**(2E)** Secondly, Vs 47 and Vs 48 dealing with the relationship of Jesus to the Father, we want to see it in His coming into the world. Three things.

**(1F)** First of all, the reason Jesus came. Vs 47... (READ)

That is the reason Jesus came. John 3:17 says the same thing. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him."

God wants you to be saved. That is why the Father sent the Son. The reason he came is the same reason the Father sent him. ~~When~~ Christ came to save the world. Not to judge it.

~~See the object of Jesus came to save the world and not judge it, why do we judge and condemn others~~

You say, isn't he going to judge the world? Yes, he will be the judge. But he didn't come -- his first coming -- to judge it. He came to save it. He came to die on a cross. *He came to give us LIFE. DO NOT REJECT HIM*  
*But, He will be judge if you continue to reject his message.*

(2F) Second, the response we give. Vs 48 ~~(3F)~~ says: "He who rejects me, and does not receive my saying, has one who judges him."

Let me just illustrate this response we give to Jesus. You may think in a very sincere way that you are not rejecting Jesus. But if you do not receive His words, ~~that~~ *what* he has said, recorded in the scripture, the Bible teaches that you are rejecting *Jesus*.

A person said, " I don't want to reject Jesus, I just want to reject what you say is the truth about Jesus."

Well, is what I say in the scripture?.....Well, I am not sure that is what it means.....*OK* Well, what does it mean?.....

Take what Jesus said and ask yourself, DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID? As it is recorded in the Word, do you believe it? If you do not accept that, if you do not receive His words, the Bible says you are rejecting Jesus, period. *and you are lost in your sin*

ARE YOU REJECTING HIM? HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE MESSAGE AS RECORDED IN THE SCRIPTURES?

(3F) Third, the reality of the last day. The last part of Vs 48 says, "the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."

Acts 17:31 tells us that God is going to judge all people at that last day.. WHAT IS THE BASES OF JUDGMENT? *Answer* It is whether or not you have accepted the Word which Jesus said about himself.

All people will be judged. Not because of their worth, *how* many good things they did in contrast to bad things, but they will be judged according to that message about Christ, whether you have received and accepted it or not. *The Bible say about those who have received*

*Christ there is no condemnation. But those who reject the message of the gospel will be condemned already.*

(3E) Then, the final thing about the relationship of Christ to the Father is the commandment Christ received from the Father - Vs 49-50\_

(Read Vs 49-50)

Two things here *that you should apply to your life.*

(1F) First, notice Christ obedience to this command.

Jesus demonstrated in his life complete submission to the commandment of God. Go into the world, die on a cross, and through the method of you *living on the cross* ~~paying~~ for all sin, we will give humans eternal life.

His commandment, his mission into the world results in everlasting life. He was obedient to the Father even to the point of the cross. ~~And~~ *And* there isn't one example in all of God's word where Christ was not obedient to the will of the Father. Hebrews chapter 10 says that Christ came to do the will of the Father.

Christ ~~said~~ *said* in the garden, "Not my will, but thine be done."

(2F) Secondly, notice the outcome of this commandment from the father is ~~everlasting life.....~~ *Everlasting life.....* Eternal life.

So, ~~We~~ *We* had to speak it. The Father said it unto me and so I speak. We are one and the same. We agree. This is the message.

*Jesus said* If you don't believe in me, then you do not believe in the heavenly Father's commandment or his message or his purpose in sending me into the world.

*John's friends* This is a tremendous portion of scripture. And it explains why people don't believe, *Thomas knew*

*Abu* And let me ~~summarize~~ *put it together* for you. *you know* ~~friend~~, if you do not believe the message about Christ in the Gospel, you are not a christian.

A christian is not simple one who does good things. No, that is not a Christian.

A christian is one who believes *and accepts and operates his life on* the message of the scriptures about Jesus Christ. PERIOD....

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT MESSAGE?

The Bible says that faith is the substance...the title deed...the foundation...of things that are hoped for.

How do you know you are going to receive eternal life in heaven? How do you know that? How do you know you are going to receive forgiveness of all sins? How do you know that? How do you know that Jesus is really God? How?....."Faith."

But Faith always has an object. The object is the historical facts of Christ as recorded in a written record. Namely the Bible. And the moment you take that record and say "THAT IS THE TRUTH", then that ~~is~~ is the grounds, the foundation of everything you hope for.

How do I know that I am going to have eternal life? Because I live a good life.....NO.....Because I think that Jesus is in my heart.....NO... It is true that He is. But not because I think so..... ~~it~~ is the <sup>statement</sup> promise of the Word of God. I J<sub>o</sub>hn 5:13 tells us that "these things are written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."

And what confidence and what peace comes into your heart when you believe the message of Christ. Therefore, I am going to receive everything I am hoping for. I have already received it, by way of position the moment I believed in Christ. At that moment it was settled. It was done. I am saved. I have eternal life.

And friends, would you like to have that confidence: Then believe the Word of God about Jesus Christ. Believe that Jesus is God in human flesh. That He is able to forgive your sins and give you eternal life. Believe Jesus and you will have that confidence.

But if you continue to refuse Jesus, you will have unrest, confusion, and discouragement throughout your life.

Shall we close in prayer