

“The Dangers of Rejecting the Light”

John 12:35-50

Introduction: In the context of this passage, Jesus is dealing with the unbelief of “*the people*” (v. 17, v. 18, v. 29, v. 34) and their ignoring of His Words. Concerning their faith, we see that “*they believed not on him*” (v. 37) (the Saviour), and, therefore, “*they could not believe*” (v. 39) the Scriptures. Regardless of the light presented to them (vs. 35-36), they still rejected the truths from the Lord. No amount of evidence revealed to them would curb their unbelief. Observe what they did see.

1. They Saw the Supernatural v. 37- “*But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him*”
2. They Saw the Servant v. 38- “*That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled...*”
3. They Saw the Scriptures v. 38- “*...which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report?*”
4. They Saw the Saviour v. 38- “*...and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?*”

Body: The people saw many wonderful things, but still did not believe. From this passage, we notice the danger of rejecting the light that the Lord gives individuals. The direct result of this denial is someone walking away from the ways and paths of the Lord. Job 24:13 “*They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.*” As a result, the Lord brings judgment and condemnation to the light rejecters. Ignoring light forces our Lord to move in such a way that the unbelievers doom will be sealed unto the Day of Judgment. Notice what our Lord does to such a people.

- I. He Hinders their Sight v. 40- “*He hath blinded their eyes...*”
 - A. Leading to No Conversion Matthew 13:15- “*For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them*”
 - B. Leading to No Cleansing Mark 4:12- “*That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them*”
 - C. Leading to No Comprehension Luke 8:10- “*And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand*”
- II. He Hardens their Senses v. 40- “*...and hardened their heart...*”
 - A. Romans 9:18- “*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth*”

- B. Exodus 4:21- *“...but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go”*
 - C. Exodus 7:13- *“And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said”*
 - D. Exodus 8:15- *“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said”*
 - E. Psalm 95:8- *“Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness”* Hebrews 3:8, 15, 4:7
 - F. Proverbs 28:14- *“Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief”*
 - G. Ezekiel 3:7- *“But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted”*
 - H. Matthew 19:8- *“He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so”*
 - I. Mark 3:5- *“And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other”*
 - J. Mark 6:52- *“For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened”*
 - K. Mark 8:17- *“And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?”*
 - L. Mark 16:14- *“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen”*
 - M. Romans 2:5- *“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God”*
- III. He Hides His Salvation v. 40- *“...that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”* Isaiah 55:6

Conclusion: From this passage, we notice two types of people that reject and ignore the Words of the Lord. First, those that completely disbelieve light (vs. 37-41). Secondly, there are those that believe, but do not profess (vs. 42-43). This may derive from a fear of being excommunicated. John 9:22 *“These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.”* No matter the reason, the Lord is not pleased with those that reject what He says. Therefore, we see the conclusion to His judgment in verse 48. *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*