

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 12:36-50)

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were ashamed/embarrassed to associate with somebody or some group?
What was the situation and why did you feel ashamed/embarrassed?
Was it something in the behavior of the person(s) you were associated with?
Was it something about the environment you were in that led you to be embarrassed/ashamed in that moment?
Was it your own insecurities bringing about these insecurities?
Ultimately, did you overcome the shame/embarrassment, or did you decide to disassociate with the person(s)?
2. How does the above situation relate to people believing in Jesus, but not being willing to confess it in Jesus' day?
What could this look like in OUR day and time?
Have you ever been in a situation where you've been tempted to disassociate with Jesus (or His Church)?
What was this situation, and how did you ultimately resolve the matter in your heart?
How has the Lord used it to grow you in your boldness in the aftermath of that situation?
What does this passage reveal about the root cause of our motivation in situations like this? (See verse 43)
3. Read John 12:36-41 and the passages that were quoted - Isaiah chapters 6 & 53.
As you read these two chapters in Isaiah, how do you see John 12:41 being evident?
How does reading this in their original context help bring greater clarity to John's usage of them?
What does it mean that the people WOULD not believe, then that they COULD not believe?
How does that resonate with you and your theological convictions?
How do these statements relate to the rest of Scripture?
What do these statements reveal about the nature of our salvation?
4. Read verses 44-49.
How do Jesus' words recorded here affirm and continue what He's already been saying through the Gospel of John?
What themes are evident here that have been evident throughout the book?
To whom does Jesus send this invitation, and is it consistent with His other invitations throughout the Gospel of John?
What do these verses reveal about the nature of Jesus and His relationship with The Father?
What do these verses reveal about the authority of Jesus?
What do these verses reveal about the position of mankind apart from Christ?
How does following Jesus change this position? (see verse 46)
As you look at verses 49 & 50 - what is significant about how Jesus describes the commandment of the Father?
Do you view the commandments of God in this way?
Do you live your life as if His commandments truly are "eternal life"?
How can we get to the place where we see God's commandments as "life-giving" and not "life-inhibiting"?

5. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. If we want to know God, the Father, then we seek the Son!
2. If we believe in Jesus, we **MUST** confess Him with our lips!
3. Jesus' purpose in coming was clear - he came to save!
4. When we hear Jesus words, we need to "keep" them!
5. God's eternal glory is greater than man's perceived glory!