

**Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross
March 24-29**

Day 21 Friday

**Signs are not the guarantee of Faith,
Faith by way of the Word of God Guarantees Faith**

John 12:37-50 NKJV

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

Signs, Wonders, Miracles and Blessings Weren't Enough For People to Believe

Unbelief is mostly about what a person wants, not what a person knows. John is answering the question "if Jesus was so great, why didn't everybody believe on Him?" Jesus pointed out that even seeing a miracle wouldn't convince those who ignored prior evidence (Luke 16:31). This was confirmed when Jesus raised a man from death, and His enemies responded by plotting to assassinate both the miracle-worker and the restored man (John 11:53; 12:9–11)!

In the prior conversation, Jesus was affirmed by an actual voice, from heaven, speaking audible words (John 12:28). Some of the people who heard it dismissed it as thunder (John 12:29).

This Was Prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah

Jesus quotes the prophecies of Isaiah (Isaiah 53:1 and Isaiah 6:10) to confirm through the scriptures that it is possible to harden your heart to the place where you can not believe. Therefore we must believe while there is light. Those who resist God might find He hardens their hearts as judgment on their non-belief. (Exodus 9:12)

Here is a Prophecy and a Report That You Can Believe!

As a believer here is an awesome opportunity to see how powerful the prophecies of God truly are! When Jesus quotes Isaiah 53:1 here merely touches the surface of this great prophecy that will accurately describe His purpose, passion, pain and plan of God. After all that we have discovered so far on this 40 Day Lenten Journey let us carefully read Isaiah 53 as it tells of the life, ministry, suffering and death of Jesus.

Isaiah 53

- 1** Who has believed our report? and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- 2** For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
- 3** He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- 4** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

9 And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

They Did Not Confess Him

Though some of the religious leaders believed in Him, they would not publicly proclaim it, because they were afraid to lose their position. The love of the praise of men is deadly and keeps many from a life fully committed to God.

Lest They Should Be Put Out of the Synagogue

Is it possible to be a secret follower of Jesus? Only temporarily; either the secrecy will cancel out the belief, or the belief will cancel out the secrecy. The religious leaders fear of losing their positions and the respect of their peers, however, kept them from speaking more boldly and honestly about their faith

Then Jesus Cried Out

Jesus emphasized the themes of all His previous preaching in John:

1) He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me:

Jesus stressed His unity with God the Father.

2) I have come as light into the world:

Jesus stressed His own truthfulness, and the need man has to follow Jesus.

3) I do not judge Him:

Jesus stressed His love and acceptance for the sinner; yet the word that I have spoken will judge Him - there are inescapable consequences for rejecting Jesus.

4) I have not spoken on My own authority:

Jesus stressed His own submission to God the Father. His authority flowed from His submission to God the Father.