

“CLOSING THE DOOR OF FAITH”

John 12:36b-50

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus had just spoken His last words to a stubborn and hard-hearted generation. He had given them many opportunities to hear His words and to see His works—but to no avail for the most part. Now He withdrew from them (“was hidden, hid himself”). The Light that had been with them (vv. 34-35) would no longer shine for them, and they were about to find out what it would be like for “the darkness to overtake them” and to not know where they were going (35).

They had the **supreme privilege ever given to any people**—yet they rejected it—HIM! Now, He had rejected them, and “their house would be left unto them desolate.” The most horrific punishments ever experienced were about to be meted out to the nation.

They had rejected to Savior; they would face their judge.

The same principle applies to those confronted with the Gospel today. There comes a time when those who harden their hearts against the Gospel will in turn be hardened by the Lord and will be unable to believe in the Savior.

When you recognize His voice calling you to salvation—do not close your eyes, stop up your ears, or harden your heart.

CALL OUT UPON HIM AND BE SAVED—WHILE YOU CAN!

When you do you will have eternal life (v. 50) and will no longer remain in darkness (44-46).

I. ISSUES OF UNBELIEF (36b-43)

A. Rejection of Belief (37-38)

1. Despite His many “signs”
2. Despite the prediction of Isaiah—rejecting both the words and works of Christ (Isaiah 53:1—showing Him as a sacrifice for sin, and showing His triumph over sin)

B. Rejection of Unbelievers (39-41)

1. They could not believe
2. God had “blinded their eyes” and “hardened their hearts”
3. Isaiah (the true author of the book—both ch. 53 and ch. 6) saw His glory and spoke of Him. He is the Yahweh of the OT.

C. False belief (42-43)

1. Many even of the “rulers”—Sanhedrin leaders etc.—believed in Him
2. But they were not confessing Him (cf. Rom. 10:9-10)
3. They were not willing to pay the price of discipleship—excommunication from the synagogue; see 12:25-26.

4. They loved the praise of men rather than the praise of God (43)
(The Greek word here is “glory”—cf. v. 41)

D. Rejection of the Nation (36b)

He “departed” and “hid Himself”—literally was hidden—from them.
His public instruction of them was over.
The future ramifications were disastrous!

II. THE OUTCOME OF UNBELIEF AND OF FAITH (44-50)

A. The Position of the Believer (44-46)

1. The one believing in Jesus is really believing in the Sender. (44)
2. The one carefully looking at Jesus is really contemplating the Sender (45).
3. The believer no longer remains in darkness—for Jesus is Light (46).

B. The Position of the Unbeliever (47-49)

1. Some respectfully hear, but do not “keep” His teachings (47).
2. Some outright “reject” Him and His teachings—completely disregard both (48).
3. Both are judged by the very word that Jesus has spoken (48).
4. The final judgment occurs “at the last day” (48).
5. This is true despite the fact that Jesus came to **save the world**—not to **judge** the world (47).
6. The rejected message was *completely of heavenly origin and authority* (49).
 - Jesus did not originate the message—not *out of* Himself.
 - The Father commissioned Him—“sent” Him.
 - The Father gave him instruction—“commandment.”
 - Jesus did and said **exactly** what He was told

C. The Fruit of the Message (50)

1. The Commandment **IS ETERNAL LIFE**.
This is pretty significant!
2. Therefore Jesus was careful to say **only what the father had told him.**

CONCLUSION

Believer—You show respect and submission to both the Father and the Son.
You walk in the light—no longer in darkness.

Unbeliever—What kind are you?

- One who **professes** to believe Him but will not **confess** Him.
- One who respectfully listens but does not do?
- One who rudely rejects Him and His message

HIS COMMANDMENT IS **ETERNAL LIFE**—He preached it, now I preach it.

Will you accept it?

If you do not, His word will judge you at the last day.

Beware, lest He blind your eyes and harden your heart so that you cannot believe and be converted!