

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for February 18-19, 2006

"Why Jesus Was Rejected"

John 12:39-43

The first fact about Jewish unbelief is that they dismissed the evidence (John 12:37). The second fact about Jewish unbelief is that the unbelief of so many Jews, in spite of the evidence, fulfilled prophecy (John 12:38).

The third fact about Jewish unbelief in the time of Christ is that God was its ultimate cause (John 12:39-40).

It had been prophesied in Isaiah 53:1 that the Jews would not believe, and according to John 12:37 they did not believe, and John 12:39 is now telling us that they could not believe.

The explanation that the apostle gave in John 12:40 for why the Jews could not believe in John 12:39 came from a quotation in Isaiah 6:9-10.

The Jewish people could not believe Christ because God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts (John 12:40).

Though God blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts the blinding and hardening was not apart from or against their will. They were therefore responsible for their rejection of Christ.

The ultimate cause for the Jews' rejection of Christ, and in essence anybody's rejection of Christ, is found in the will of God (Romans 9:14-18).

God blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so that Christ, His sacrificial lamb, might through His death on the cross take away the sin of the world.

We can know whether or not God has chosen to open our heart to salvation when our profession of faith produces works (James 2:14-20).

John clearly told us, based on John 12:41, that Isaiah had seen the glory of Christ.

Isaiah had seen the glory of Christ when he saw the Lord sitting on His throne in Isaiah 6:1-3.

Isaiah's response to what he had seen was to become Christ's messenger (John 12:41).

Isaiah's willingness to become Christ's messenger after witnessing the glory of Christ confirmed that His faith was truly saving.

The unwillingness of so many so-called Jewish believers in John 12:42-43 to become messengers of Christ, in spite of having seen His glory, confirmed that their faith was spurious (John 5:44).

Those who have been touched by God and are able to view the glory of Christ with eyes of faith will desire to become His messengers.