

(37) Though He had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in Him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1)

(39) Therefore, they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” (Isaiah 6:10)

(41) Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him. Nevertheless, *many even of the authorities believed in Him*, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

(44) And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And whoever sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come into the world as Light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.

(47) “If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge; the Word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given me a commandment --- what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told Me.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Sometimes we think that if WE saw the miraculous signs performed by Jesus, we would certainly have believed in Him! Jesus even encouraged unbelievers troubled by His teachings to consider the miracles (John 10:37-38). Had miracles made an impact on this crowd of people (v.37)?

- 2) John says in v.39 that “they could not believe,” and cites evidence with two quotes from Isaiah. We’ve likely met people just like this; no matter what we’ve tried to share about God with them, they reject it (us) strongly. Let’s take a moment to examine “hard hearts” (i.e., being belligerent):

Exodus 7:14 - _____

Exodus 11:10 - _____

Now consider Isaiah 52:13-53:1 and Isaiah 6:1-13. Why do you think God judged His own people by blinding them to His truth? (Hint: the silver lining in this is salvation has come to non-Jews.)

Can this still happen today (Hebrews 3:13)? _____

How? _____

3) Vs. 42-43 point out that among the Pharisees and other authorities, there were those who “believed” in Jesus. Can you name a few from memory? Do you think they were saved? Why or why not? See Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 about “compromised” believers.

Can you name some? _____

Saved? Why or why not? _____

4) Why were these rulers “silent Christians” (v.42)? Do you blame them? Who is like this today?

5) Jesus has been very candid with the Pharisees and the crowds that He and His Father need to be seen as “one.” Review John 10:30, 36b-38. How do you and I get to see God the Father today?

6) Jesus describes Himself as Light in v.46. How should we NOT live, and what does this mean?

7) Again, why did Jesus come into the world (see v.47 and John 3:16-17)?

8) There will be judgment on the Last Day. Rejecting “what” subjects us to judgment (vs.46-48)?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: