

**March 22, 2023**

The Danger of Unbelief

John 12:36-50

In John 1-12 signs play a critically important function. The purpose of the signs was for people to believe in Jesus and have life in His name. John also writes that people repeatedly refused to believe in Jesus. Why didn't they believe? Were the signs inconclusive? Was Jesus lacking? The answer is no. John 12:36-50 informs us it is a combination of human responsibility and God's sovereignty. The people would not believe, and then they could not believe.

**Additional Verses:**

Exodus 8:15, 9:12

Deuteronomy 29:11

Isaiah 6:8-10, 53:1-10

Romans 1:18-24

**Outline:**

1. The danger of continual unbelief leads to the inability to believe.

- We must recognize there is a tension.

- We must recognize God's sovereignty and human responsibility are held together in the same hand.

2. The only solution to unbelief is Jesus.

**Study Questions:**

1. What is the purpose of the signs in John's Gospel? Which sign do you think is the most impressive? Would that sign be enough for you to believe in Jesus? Why?

2. How do the passages in Isaiah demonstrate Jesus is not the problem? What are the similarities in reception to Isaiah and Jesus' message? What do they both continue to do?

3. Describe a time when you hardened your heart? What was the result? How does this explain the "would not-could not" tension in this passage?

4. What is Jesus' final public plea? How does this form a bookend with John 1:1-4?

5. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?