



ULTIMATE CHOICES
BLINDNESS OR BELIEF?
JOHN 12:36B-50

Ben Blakey - Compass Bible Church - January 23, 2021

1. Understand _____

(vv. 36b-43)

John 12:36b-50 (ESV)

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 38 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?”

39 Therefore they could not believe.

For again Isaiah said,

40 “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.”

41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

42 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; 43 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. 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. 46 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. 48 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. 49 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. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

2. Heed _____

(vv. 44-50)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Taking Ground Question:

1. **Reread 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.** What are some of the excuses we may use to not give as we should? What are we missing out on when we do not give in the way described in this passage?

Sermon Questions:

1. **Romans 11:33-36.** As we consider weighty and difficult topics like God's sovereignty and human responsibility, why is so important for worship to be central to our response?

2. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.** What was is like when God opened your eyes to see the truth and beauty of the gospel? Who are some specific people who need their eyes opened that you want to commit to praying for? Share with your group where appropriate.

3. **Read Romans 9:1-3.** While Paul knows that God is sovereign over this "partial hardening" that has come upon Israel, he is filled with intense emotion that seeks their salvation! What keeps us from having this kind of earnest desire over the souls of lost people around us?

4. **Read John 5:44.** While the struggle described here keeps many people from truly putting their faith in Christ, it is not a struggle that goes away completely once we are saved! What are some of the ways this battle over seeking glory from God or from man continues in your own life and sanctification?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.

Alcorn, Randy. *Money, Possessions, and Eternity.* Tyndale House, 2003.

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God.* IVP Books, 2009.

Stiles, Mack. *Evangelism.* Crossway, 2014.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for many blind eyes in our community to be opened to the truth of the Gospel.

Pray that we would be faithful to proclaim the gospel no matter what. Pray that our church would be a model of faithful, generous giving. Pray that God would provide a permanent home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

Pray for our national political leaders – for salvation, for wisdom, and for peace. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	O.T.	Psalms	Gospels	N.T.
1/25/2021	Genesis 48-50	Psalms 16:5-11	Matthew 8:23-34	Acts 8:1-8
1/26/2021	Exodus 1-3	Psalms 17:1-7	Matthew 9:1-13	Acts 8:9-25
1/27/2021	Exodus 4-5	Psalms 17:8-15	Matthew 9:14-26	Acts 8:26-40
1/28/2021	Exodus 6-7	Psalms 18:1-12	Matthew 9:27-38	Acts 9:1-19
1/29/2021	Exodus 8-9	Psalms 18:13-19	Matthew 10:1-15	Acts 9:20-31
1/30/2021	Exodus 10-12	Psalms 18:20-30	Matthew 10:16-33	Acts 9:32-43