



TEXT: JOHN 12:36-50

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Youth Camp** – For students grades 6-12, June 6-12 at Camp Caswell. Contact Luke for more information or go to redeemer.com/nextsteps to register.
 - **Covenant Members Meeting** – Sunday evening, January 26. Childcare will be provided. More information to come regarding a meal we will share together.
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Leading Off...

1. Share a time when you felt judged or rejected, even for something small.
2. Why is it important to understand that Jesus was rejected, so that we might be accepted?

BIG IDEA: Jesus is rejected.

Read John 12:36-38

3. Why does seeing a miracle not necessarily bring about belief?
4. Have you ever experienced or seen this?
5. Beginning in verse 38, why does John point us back to the words of the prophet Isaiah?

Read Isaiah 53:1-3

6. How do these verses relate to what we are seeing about Jesus in John?
7. How do many today make the same mistake?

Read John 12:39-40

8. How are we to read and understand this passage, in light of the context of the whole Bible?
9. People's hearts are naturally bent toward evil. What happens when God removes His hand of restraint and allows people to pursue evil?
10. How does God removing His hand of restraint relate to what we are seeing here with Jesus?

Read Isaiah 6:1-7

11. How does this passage point us to the truth that we are all sinners?
12. What is the right and proper response to being exposed to the presence and holiness of God?
13. How do passages like this help us to better understand the gospel and how we can share it?
14. Thinking back to the passage in John, why then were the people not responding correctly?

Read Isaiah 6:8-13

15. It seems the more Isaiah and Jesus preached, the more evil people became. Why was this so?
16. This passage reveals that the worst judgment is sometimes getting what we want. How does God use this to show us the depth of our sin?

Read Romans 1:24-25

17. Discuss how we also see here in Romans the judgment of God in removing His hand of restraint.
18. Share a time when you realized God was not giving you a blessing but what you wanted, which actually was judgment and discipline. What lessons did you learn from that?

Wrapping Up**Read John 12:41-50**

19. Why is confession so important to true belief?
20. What do you see as more scandalous, that God gives judgment in removing His hand of restraint, or that he offers grace in salvation?
21. How are we to respond to Jesus in light of these scriptures?