

GOD PLEASER OR MAN PLEASER?

PASTOR FERNANDO CAMBRON
CALVARY CHAPEL THREE CROSSES

JOHN 12:20-50 | BIBLE STUDY HANDOUT | OCTOBER 14, 2026

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus calls us to choose obedience to the Father over the approval of people. Following Him means surrender, fruitfulness, and walking in the light.

1

John 12:20-23 | Bring People to Jesus

Certain Greeks came to Jesus with a desire to see Him. We are called to lead others to Christ, and to recognise that Jesus draws people from every nation.

2

John 12:24 | The Seed Must Die

Just as a seed must die to produce a harvest, a life surrendered to Christ brings spiritual fruit. Productive service often follows personal surrender.

3

John 12:25-26 | Follow and Serve

Jesus challenges us to lay down our lives if we want real life in Him. True discipleship means following Him, not seeking our own lives, but finding them in His purpose.

4

John 12:27-28 | Glorify Your Name

In prayer, Jesus looks to the Father's glory. We, too, are invited to seek God's honor above our own, trusting His timing and plan.

5

John 12:29-33 | Lifted Up

The crowd's mixed reaction highlights both belief and unbelief. Jesus explains that He will be lifted up, and that this would draw people to Himself.

6

John 12:34-36 | Walk in the Light

The coming darkness is a warning about judgment. But those who follow Jesus and walk in the light will have life, freedom, and become children of God.

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7

John 12:37-41 | The Danger of Unbelief

Despite Jesus' signs, many still would not believe. Their unbelief fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, revealing a hard and unwilling heart.

8

John 12:42-43 | God's Praise or People's?

Some believed but did not openly confess because they feared man's opinion. The eternal question remains: are we more concerned with God's approval or the approval of people?

9

John 12:44-46 | Jesus Reveals the Father

Jesus declares that He did not come to judge the world but to save it. His words reveal the Father, and our response to Him is a response to God.

10

John 12:47-50 | His Word and Eternal Life

Jesus came to save, not to judge. His words bring eternal life. Rejecting Him and His message leaves us without excuse, for His word will be the final standard.

CROSS-REFERENCES IN THE TEACHING

John 3:14-15

The Son of Man must be lifted up, just as Moses lifted up the serpent.

Philippians 2:5-11

The example of Christ's humility and exaltation.

Isaiah 6:9-10, 53:1

Prophecies of the people's hardened hearts and the Servant.

Matthew 16:24-26

Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ.

Acts 10:34-35

The good news is for the whole world, including the Gentiles.

James 1:12

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.

Romans 8:1-2

There is no condemnation for those in Christ.

RESPOND & REFLECT

1 I am most tempted to seek the favor of _____ (people/man) instead of seeking to please _____ (God / John 12:43).

2 God is leading me to trust Him and _____ (surrender / serve) in the area of _____ (John 12:24).

3 **CHALLENGE:** Where are you tempted to seek people's approval instead of obeying God?

What step of faith and obedience will you take this week?