

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 3/29/26**  
***Days With Jesus, Day 39—Gazing at the Invisible God***  
**John 12:37-50**

**The people wouldn't believe, so they COULDN'T believe**

After years of teaching and miracles, the Jewish nation should have submitted to Jesus and his mission. But in the face of overwhelming evidence, they turned away, testing God's patience (Luke 13:31-35). *The eternal God's patience is not eternal!* After ample opportunity to respond, God gives people over to the human wisdom they trusted in, bringing judgment and destruction (Rom. 1:18-25; Heb. 3:7-9). This was seen in the judgment on Pharaoh and the plagues in Egypt, as well as the Israelites who refused to repent (Ex. 3:19; 4:21; 1 Sam. 6:6; Is. 6:9, 10). God makes hard hearts harder to make the judgment more obvious as a warning to others. *Not everyone gets the same amount of information, but everyone is required to respond to the amount given to them* (Matt. 11:20-22)!

**Some believe, but are ASHAMED of Jesus**

The entire nation should have responded to Jesus but didn't. However, some did—including the religious leaders. They were the upper class of Jewish society and had Roman privileges. So, while some people were openly proclaiming Jesus, some religious leaders refused because of what it would cost them. *Count the cost to follow Christ because following Christ will cost you everything* (Mark 8:34, 35; Luke 14:27-29)! Throughout a believer's life, many things will cause them to want to leave God's will—stress, anxiety, relational problems, disappointment, and other people being discouraging. God says to endure difficulty, as it creates unity, gives spiritual stability, and provides personal maturity (1 Cor. 11:18, 19; Heb. 10:34, 35). *Even if some leave the battle, never give up fighting the war!*

**Jesus is the image of the INVISIBLE God**

In another affirmation of divinity, Jesus states that though he and the Father are separate entities, they are perfectly one—to see One working is to see the Other at work. In Jesus, the invisible God was finally enfleshed into history for everyone to see (John 1:1-3; Gal. 4:4, 5; Col. 1:15). *There's no one like Jesus because there's no one like God!* After believing in Jesus, people are then changed to be like him and become the 'visibleness' of the invisible God to others (2 Cor. 5:20). *We join the mission of God to save people when we display Jesus on the inside to those who are on the outside!*