

# The Bane of Unbelief

## (A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #50)

### John 12:37-43

#### A. The question is “Why did Jesus pull away and go hide?”

1. Jesus was going to be the one to decide when and where he would die
2. Jesus also wanted to spend some significant time with his disciples...
3. The weight of people’s rejection was mounting and Jesus wisely steps away from the “fire”

#### B. As a Christian, it is hard to comprehend why everyone isn't a believer in Jesus

1. Jesus and the Gospel offer an amazing opportunity, too good to pass up!
2. Some people don’t want anything to do with it

#### UNBELIEF IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF UNBELIEF (12:37-40)

##### A. Jesus’ historical mission seems to have failed - statistically and visibly

*“Lord, who has ever believed our message? Who has ever seen in this message a revelation of the Lord’s strong arm?” (Isaiah 53:1)*

*“Many are called but only few are chosen” (Matthew 19:30)*

*“Here is why they are unable to believe...because He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart to keep them from...understanding and thus changing their way...” (Isaiah 6:10)*

##### 1. Principle: “The more time people have, the more time people take”

##### 2. People deal with the Father and Son and Holy Spirit in a similar way

*“Lord, make be chase, just not yet!” (Augustine)*

#### B. We don't have forever; accept his invitation now!

#### UNBELIEF IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF FEAR (John 12:42)

##### A. After just saying “many” would not believe, John now says “many” believed

##### B. But these “believers” only half believe

##### C. Walking with God is not simply a one-time decision but a long-series of choices

1. Over any given day, we make hundreds of choices and decisions
2. We consider them just minor decisions - without understanding the major impact they have on us

##### D. There comes a time when Christ says: “You need to choose me...over fear, family, occupation...over everything else”

##### 1. Principle: Jesus Christ accepts no preconditions for believing in him

*“Never leave hold of what you've got until you've got ahold of something better”  
(First law of wing walking)*

*“What good is it if a man gains the whole world and loses his soul?” (Mark 8:36)*

##### 2. Cast your fear to the wind, Choose quickly. Sadly, many will never make that decision

#### UNBELIEF IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF AN IMPROPER NEED (12:43)

##### A. John notes “they loved the praise of people more than the praise of God”

1. There are people who don’t believe because of how others might respond
2. In Jesus day, believers could lose their life for proclaiming Jesus is Lord; same thing could happen today
3. Is someone’s disapproval or response preventing you from following Christ?

##### B. Do it anyway. Do it now. Don't wait until it is easy; he may not be there

#### UNBELIEF IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF SECRECY (John 12:42)

##### A. Belief will destroy secrecy or secrecy will destroy belief

##### 1. A person’s faith is not a private matter; it’s a declaration to be shouted from the rooftops; believing is a public witness to the saving grace of God

*“If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with our mouth that you profess your faith and are saved” (Romans 10:9-10)*

*“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32)*

##### 2. If you’re a Christian, it is not only important to walk the talk, it is important to talk the walk

##### B. God’s instrument’s needle is pointing to Jesus - only those who believe in Jesus will be saved!