

**Exegetical Notes, John 12:37-50**  
**“Blinded Eyes”**

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**John 12:37-50**

**Verses 37-41**

*Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.* <sup>38</sup> *This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:*

*“Lord, who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

<sup>39</sup> *For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:*

<sup>40</sup> *“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so they can neither see with their eyes,  
nor understand with their hearts,  
nor turn—and I would heal them.”*

<sup>41</sup> *Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.*

- The Old Testament spoke of the signs, wonders, and miracles the Messiah would do. So the Jews should have known that Jesus was the Messiah on that basis. Several times Jesus called upon the Jews to believe in him because of the signs which he did. But they still did not believe that he was the Messiah.
- The first verse, verse 38b, quote is from Isaiah 53:1. John saw the failure of the Jews to accept/believe in Jesus as the Messiah as fulfillment of Isaiah’s words.
- Verse 39 does not mean that the people in question had no options. Many Jews did choose to believe in Jesus. But despite the options, some people “could not believe because they chose to ignore the evidence about him. They willfully chose not to believe. They could not see because they would not see.
- Because of their choice not to see, God blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts. The quote is from Isaiah 6:10. This is God’s judgment on them for their decision to reject Jesus.

### Verses 42-43

*Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God.*

- There were some among the Jewish leadership that did see and believe in Jesus. However, they tried to keep their belief in him secret because they were afraid of the consequences of being known as a believer.

### Verses 44-50

*Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. <sup>45</sup> The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*

*<sup>47</sup> “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”*

- Jesus declared that he and the Father are in complete accord. Seeing/hearing Jesus is the same as seeing/hearing the Father.
- If we acknowledge Jesus to be who he claims to be, we are not judged but saved. But those who do not believe are under judgment because Jesus and the Father are one. To reject him is to reject God, the father.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Blinded Eyes*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)