

III. PASSED OVER BY THE MANY (John 12:37-50)

A. The Boldness of Their Rejection (John 12:37)

1. Despite His miracles (John 5:36)
2. Refusing to believe (cp. Matthew 13:58)

B. The Prophecy of Their Rejection (John 12:38-41)

1. The first quotation (John 12:38; Isaiah 53:1)
 - a. Also quoted in Romans 10:16
 - b. The true believers will be a minority.
2. The second quotation (John 12:39-41; Isaiah 6:1, 8-10)
 - a. One of the most often quoted passages in the New Testament (Matthew 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:38; Acts 28:26,27; Romans 11:8)
 - b. The majority will be blinded.

C. The Cause of Their Rejection (John 12:42-43)

1. Not the lack of belief (John 12:42; Acts 26:26-29)
 - a. They believed on Him (John 3:2).
 - b. They did not confess Him (Luke 12:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 4:2-3, 15; 2 John 1:7).
 - c. Note: it is possible to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and still not be saved (John 8:30-37, 44; James 2:19).
 - d. Lest they should be put out of the synagogue (John 9:22, 30-34)
2. But the fear of man (John 12:42; Proverbs 29:25; Galatians 1:10)
3. Note: the sin of seeking the praise of men (John 12:43)
 - a. Seeking their own glory (Proverbs 25:27; Galatians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 2:6)
 - b. Desiring to be seen of men (Matthew 6:1-6, 16; Matthew 23:5-7; Luke 20:47)
 - c. Desiring to appear righteous (Matthew 23:28; Luke 16:15)
 - d. Desiring to compare favorably (2 Corinthians 10:12)
 - e. Declaring their own praise (John 7:18; 2 Corinthians 10:18)

D. The Extent of Their Rejection (John 12:44-46)

1. Rejecting the sender of the light (John 12:44-45; John 13:20)
 - a. To believe on the Son is to believe on the Father (John 12:44).
 - b. To see the Son is to see the Father (John 12:45; John 14:9-10; Matthew 11:27).
2. Rejecting the light of the world (John 12:46; John 1:6-12; John 3:19-21)
 - a. Christ is the light of the world.

- b. Faith in Christ is the only escape from the darkness of this world (2 Corinthians 4:5-6).
- E. The Judgment of Their Rejection (John 12:47-48)
- 1. The judgment by the word (John 12:47-48; Deuteronomy 18:19)
 - a. First coming was not for judgment (John 12:47; John 3:17; John 8:11)
 - (1) Not to judge
 - (2) But to save (Matthew 20:28; Luke 9:56)
 - b. True judgment will come from the word of Christ (John 12:48).
 - (1) They received not His words.
 - (2) They will be judged by His word (cp. Romans 2:16).
 - 2. The judgment of their words (Matthew 12:36-37)
- F. The Target of Their Rejection (John 12:49-50)
- 1. Christ spoke not of Himself (John 12:49).
 - a. Christ's presence among men is the presence of God (John 1:14, 18; John 12:45; John 14:9; 1 Timothy 3:16).
 - b. Christ's words are the words of God (John 3:31-34; John 6:63; John 12:47-48; John 14:23-24).
 - c. Christ's love is the love of God (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-10).
 - d. Christ's salvation is the salvation of God (Acts 28:28; Romans 1:16; Romans 15:16; Titus 2:11-14).
 - e. Christ's judgment is the judgment of God (John 5:22-23, 27, 30; John 12:48).
 - 2. Christ spoke the commandment of the Father (John 12:49; John 8:26; John 14:10; John 15:15; John 17:8).
 - 3. Christ spoke the commandment of everlasting life (John 12:50; John 6:63, 68; John 17:3; John 20:30-31; 1 John 2:25; 1 John 5:11-12, 20).