



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 12:44-50  
From Sermon 8.4.24

Read *John 12:44-50*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Just as it is for our world/day, the clock was ticking in Jesus' earthly ministry. He was about to be gone (their wish), yet that was going to extinguish the greatest light they could ever have. The people of Jesus' day could not see the danger. The people of today miss it as well—and no one is sounding the alarm. The Bible provides great assuring promises for faithful belief. It also spells out condemning promises for unbelief.

1. Belief/unbelief can be identified by now/later also. The Bible says:

Belief Now

*John 16:33—Tribulations*

*2 Timothy 3:12—Persecutions*

Belief Later

*Revelation 21:4—Peace, Prosperity, Blessing*

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18—Glory*

Unbelief Now

*John 12:43—Praise/Acceptance*

*Psalms 73:3-5—Prosperity/Material Blessing*

Unbelief Later

*2 Thessalonians 1:6-9—Persecution/Wrath*

*Matthew 25:30—Darkness/Tears*

2. Belief and unbelief in the biblical Jesus divides all of mankind. What percentage of mankind would you guess is in each camp? 50/50? 25/75? Some other ratio? Discuss.

3. In whose spiritual life does Holy God intervene: believers or unbelievers? Both.

*See Ephesians 2:8 & Exodus 7:3*

Does then God cause unbelief and rejection? No. 1) He chooses to not regenerate the non-elect. 2) He abandons the sinner to their sin. 3) He judges (now & later) for willfully rejecting Christ.

3a. Continuing that thought: If the intervention of God is required for all saving belief, do you ever struggle with the doctrine of election/non-election? Various Personal Answers

4. Re-read *John 12:48*. Then, read *Hebrews 4:12*. Review again how the Word of God is a double-edged sword. It cuts both ways. The very same Word that cuts through the darkness, sin, & mire of believers and exposes our need for a savior will one day stand to condemn unbelievers who rejected and dismissed it.

5. How are Jesus' words at the same time a grace and a stumbling block? This crowd (and everyone who hears the Gospel) are hearing directly from God with an opportunity to respond and be saved. But, because they refuse to repent and believe, the very same words of grace will one day be quoted for their judgment.

6. How do unbelievers want to divide, compartmentalize, and make God relevant? Having an Old Testament harsh God vs a passive, docile Jesus. One of wrath vs a new God of grace. Last week: The patience of God interpreted as the approval of God.