

# THE FAINT-HEARTED CROWD

## TWO THINGS WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING...

1. Crowds are notorious for leading people astray. Watch out!

*"The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there."*  
- Acts 19:32

2. If we truly love Jesus, we know what we believe and we stand with Him no matter what the crowd does.

## INVITATION TO THE CROWDS

Jesus reminded the people that He is the light.

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*  
- John 8:12

- Jesus, as the light, has been declared in John 24 times to this point, but it will not be mentioned after this chapter.

Jesus explains the urgency of walking in Him.

*"Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light... <sup>36</sup>Put your trust in the light while you have it..."*  
- John 12:35,36

- Jesus then hid Himself from the crowd so that He could control the last hours of His life. He had warned them.

*"Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."*  
- John 8:21

## ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

Jesus had done everything possible:

- He came into our presence as a human.
- He had performed miraculous signs in their presence.
- He explained the message of salvation.
- He offered His invitation repeatedly.

But Israel still did not believe in Him. Why?

- Because it fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah that Israel will not believe.

*"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"*  
- Isaiah 53:1

- Because Israel, as a nation, could not believe as a result of their repeated rejection.

*"He said, "Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving." <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."*  
- Isaiah 6:9,10

- Isaiah knows these things because he had seen Jesus' glory.

*"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple."*  
- Isaiah 6:1

The result of Israel's unbelief?

*"Then I said, "For how long, O Lord?" And He answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, <sup>12</sup>until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. <sup>13</sup>And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste..."*  
- Isaiah 6:11-13

- This prophecy was fulfilled less than 40 years after Jesus.

## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE TO JESUS

*(Three important three-letter words)*

**Yet** – No matter what the crowd chooses, you have the opportunity to choose differently. The free-will of mankind is seen here.

*"Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him..."*  
- John 12:42

**But** – But believing differently from the crowd means you must be willing to confess Christ and accept the world's consequences.

*"...but because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue..."*  
- John 12:42

**For** – For if you choose the world's praise you will not receive God's praise.

*"...for they loved praise from men more than praise from God."*  
- John 12:43

## IN CONCLUSION, SAYS JOHN

*"Then Jesus cried out..."*  
- John 12:44

*John summarizes the teaching of Jesus for the sake of his readers:*

- The value of believing in Jesus and the Father. — 25 times
- The fact that the Father and Son are one. — 23 times
- The concept that Jesus is the world's light. — 24 times
- The understanding that Jesus did not come to judge but that judgment would happen later. — 6 times
- That Jesus only speaks what is given to Him by the Heavenly Father. — 6 times.

## INVITATION TO YOU!

Do you realize that there is a time when God's call is withdrawn?

*"But they mocked God's messengers, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against His people and there was no remedy."*

- 2 Chronicles 36:16

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