

John 12³⁵⁻⁴³

When people hate the light

God's purpose in the rejection of Jesus



Children's talk: Blinded by the light

Context

Anticipation of Jesus' ministry (John 1⁹⁻¹³)

The Light has come (1⁹)

The Light is rejected by His own (1¹⁰⁻¹¹)

The Light is received by many (1¹²⁻¹³)

Reflective summary of Jesus' ministry (12³⁶⁻⁵⁰)

The Light departs & hides (12³⁵⁻³⁶)

The Light is rejected by His own (12³⁷⁻⁴³)

The Light is received by many (12⁴⁴⁻⁵⁰)

Consideration

Rejection of Jesus & His ministry (12³⁷⁻⁴³)

Because of God's grand plan

Because of God's type of glory (Isa 52¹³ - 53³)

Because of God's blinding them with glory (Isa 6¹⁻¹⁰)

Because of being seduced by a substitute glory (12⁴²⁻⁴³)

Conundrum

Embracing the paradox: God's sovereignty & our freedom

This is a hard saying

This is a common saying

This is a necessary saying

This is a glorious saying

This is only a part of God's glory



Questions answered



What is the evidence of suggesting that John 12³⁶⁻⁵⁰ is a reflective summary of Jesus' 3 years of public ministry?



What parallels are there between John 12³⁶⁻⁵⁰ and the opening of John's gospel in John 1⁹⁻¹³?
What do you think is the significance of this?



How does this help us in our understanding of the first portion of this section in John 12 – ie, 12³⁶⁻⁴³?



Why was Jesus rejected, according to God's grand plan?



What type of glory were the people looking for in their longed-for Messiah?
How did this differ from Jesus' glory?



Why does it seem unfair for God to blind people's eyes?
When you look at the text in Isaiah 6 more closely, how is it actually totally fair?



When people are blinded by the light, what does this indicate about the way they are going, and what they need to do?



What was the problem with the "belief" of many of the authorities?



How commonly is this passage from Isaiah 6 about God blinding the eyes of unbelievers quoted in the New Testament?
What do you take as the significance of that?



Why is the sovereignty of God in salvation so much at the heart of the gospel?



What is the other parallel truth that follows this one in John 12, and needs to be kept alongside this one?



Somethings to pray about (and follow through with)



What substitute glories have ever seduced you away from the glory of God?
Why was the seduction so strong?
How did you resist or overcome these in the end?
In whose strength, and for whose glory?