



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

John 12:37-43 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What should have convinced those who saw Jesus to believe in Him?

The loving and wonderful signs that Jesus perform that always blessed someone and were totally unselfish should have convinced those who saw Jesus to believe in Him.

2. What questions did Isaiah ask? How were these questions answered?

1. “Lord, who has believed our message?” Many of the religious authorities did not believe the message of the Father and the Son that Jesus preached. Those who preferred darkness (doing evil) to light (doing the truth) did not believe in Jesus (or the disciples).

2. “To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Jesus revealed the arm (or power) of the Lord to everyone when He performed His signs of divine love.

3. Why were some people unable to believe in Jesus?

The Lord hardened their hearts and kept them from understanding.

4. Why do you think the Lord did this to these people?

The Lord did this as punishment for those who stubbornly refused to repent of their sins after repeated warnings and signs from those God sent to them; such as the prophets (John the Baptist as an example) and finally His only Son (Jesus Christ). These unrepentant people preferred to stay in the darkness because their deeds were evil.

5. Why did some who believed in Jesus prefer not to confess it? Do some still have this problem today?

They did not want to be expelled from the synagogue. They preferred human praise and honors to praise and honor that comes from God and lasts forever. Yes.

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.