

*Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: Life to the Full Radically*  
*Delivered by: Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor; Date: November 18, 2018*

***Bible text explored: John 12:37–43***

<sup>37</sup>Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup>so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>39</sup>Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

<sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,  
lest they see with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart, and turn,  
and I would heal them.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. <sup>42</sup>Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

<sup>[a]</sup>Isa. 53:1; <sup>[b]</sup>Isa. 6:10

[ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. What (*John 12:35-36*) were Jesus’ final words in his preaching to the crowds?  
*Here now John provides an explanatory framework for understanding why some did not believe and understand Jesus, while others did—and what makes the difference between the two responses.*  
What causes people to believe, or grow in their spiritual understanding today?  
*A healthy, biblical tension exists between God’s sovereignty and human responsibility.*
2. What choice (v. 37) did people, exercising their own decision, make?  
Were they responsible for their choice? (See *Josh. 24:15; Matt 11:2-30*.)  
How should we view the human responsibility of choice for us and our families?
3. From the perspective of God’s sovereignty, what (vv. 38-40) was the reason for the people’s unbelief?  
How did God’s sovereignty lead to the crucifixion of Jesus and his death for the sins of the world?  
How does God’s complete sovereignty in all things free us from fear and motivate us toward good works? (See *Phil. 2:12-13*, mentioned in the sermon.)
4. What and who, according to John (v. 41) did Isaiah see?  
How does John’s approach to interpreting the Old Testament—that what Isaiah wrote is fulfilled in the New Testament—give us a lens through which we can read and interpret and the Old Testament today?
5. How should we be affected by this glory that centers on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?  
Why should accepting God’s sovereignty give us . . .  
. . . *peace* to rest in God’s hands?  
. . . *motivation* to pray?  
. . . *courage* to talk to others about Jesus?

6. What competing glories (v. 42) are at play in human response?

What fear prevented those who believed in secret then from confessing their faith?

What (v. 43) did this reveal about the priorities at work in their choices?

If we were to examine our social media accounts or daily conversations, what attempts to seek the momentary glory of men might we find?

How, instead, should we be hungering for the glory that comes from God?

How should this desire be shaping our speech and actions?