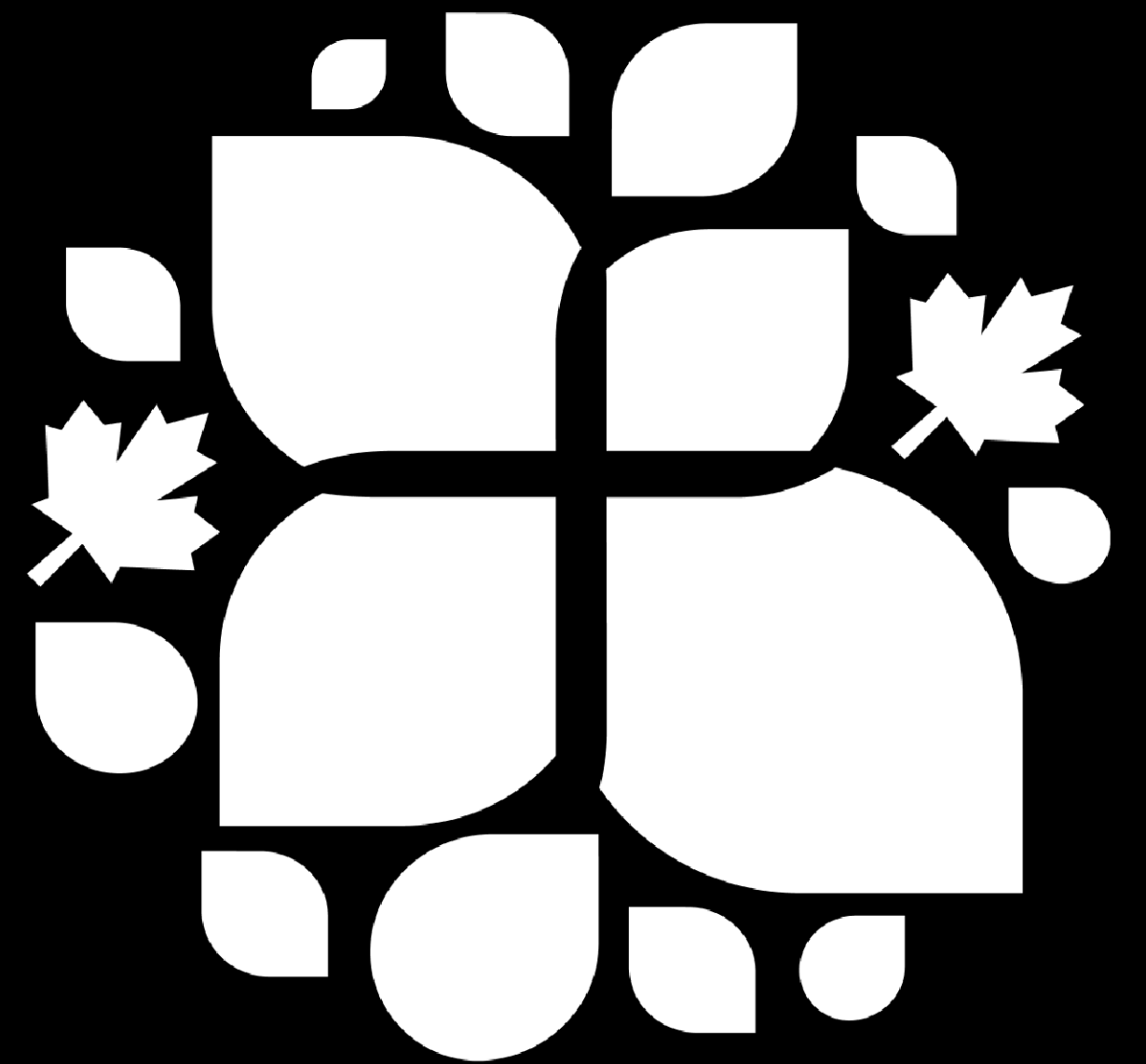


CANADIAN
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When Seeing Isn't Believing

John 12:37-50

Grace Point Church of God

Sunday, October 18, 2026

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Had you been in Jerusalem when the events of today's text took place, what conversation would you have found yourself in?



37 Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

John 12 (NIV)



***“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been
revealed?”***

***39 For this reason they could not believe,
because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:***

John 12 (NIV)



***40 “He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.”***

***41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and
spoke about him.***

John 12 (NIV)



⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

John 12 (NIV)



44 Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

John 12 (NIV)



47 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

John 12 (NIV)



48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.

John 12 (NIV)



49 For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

John 12 (NIV)



How would you have processed the events that unfolded before your eyes?



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

*³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, **they still would not believe in him.***



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

³⁸ *“Lord, **who has believed** our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

⁴⁰*“He has **blinded** their eyes and **hardened** their hearts, so they can **neither see** with their eyes, **nor understand** with their hearts, **nor turn**—and I would heal them.”*



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

*4¹ Isaiah said this because **he saw Jesus' glory** and spoke about him.*



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

CAUTION: *Beware of spiritual familiarity*



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

For reflection:

Have I merely been exposed to Jesus or have I actually encountered Him?



1. Seeing doesn't necessarily lead to believing

For reflection:

Have I merely been exposed to Jesus or have I actually encountered Him?

Do I simply know about Jesus or have I truly believed in Him?



2. The desire for approval from others can keep us from following Christ



2. The desire for approval from others can keep us from following Christ

*⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees **they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear** they would be put out of the synagogue;*



2. The desire for approval from others can keep us from following Christ

*⁴³ for they loved **human praise** more than praise
from God.*



2. The desire for approval from others can keep us from following Christ

*⁴³ for they loved the **approval of people** rather
than the approval of God. (NASB)*



2. The desire for approval from others can keep us from following Christ

For reflection:

Whose approval matters most to me?



44 Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in **the one** who sent me.



*44 Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in **the one who sent me.***

*45 The one who looks at me is **seeing the one who sent me.***



3. Jesus shows us who God is

*44 Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in **the one** who sent me.*

*45 The one who looks at me is **seeing the one** who sent me.*



46 I have come into the world as **a light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.



4. Jesus invites us to step into the light

*⁴⁶ I have come into the world as **a light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*



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*⁴⁶ I have come into the world as **a light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*

Light exposes things **we**
may want to keep hidden



47 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, **but to save the world.**”



5. Jesus came to save, not to condemn

47 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, **but to save the world.**”



5. Jesus came to save, not to condemn

*48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; **the very words I have spoken** will condemn them at the last day.*



5. Jesus came to save, not to condemn

*48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; **the very words I have spoken** will condemn them at the last day.*

**You can't sit on the fence
when it comes to Jesus**



5. Jesus came to save, not to condemn

For reflection:

Do I actually believe in Jesus?



5. Jesus came to save, not to condemn

For reflection:

Do I actually believe in Jesus?

Is He my Saviour and the
of my life?

Functional Lord



6. Jesus' words are the Father's words



6. Jesus' words are the Father's words

*49 For I did not speak on my own, but **the Father** who sent me **commanded me to say** all that I have spoken.*



6. Jesus' words are the Father's words

*⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to **eternal life**. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”*



6. Jesus' words are the Father's words

*¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life**.”*

John 3 (NIV)



Challenge

What will you do with the light?

What will you do with this offer of eternal life?

Whose approval are you ultimately living for?

What is God's Word exposing in you?