

## Blinded Eyes, Hardened Hearts

John 12:39 – 41

<sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, <sup>40</sup> “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM.” <sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.

### *Isaiah 6:1-10*

In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said,

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory.”

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said,

“Woe is me, for I am ruined!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips,  
And I live among a people of unclean lips;  
For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my mouth *with it* and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”

<sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” <sup>9</sup> He said, “Go, and tell this people:

‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive;  
Keep on looking, but do not understand.’

<sup>10</sup> “Render the hearts of this people insensitive,  
Their ears dull,  
And their eyes dim,  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
Hear with their ears,  
Understand with their hearts,  
And return and be healed.”

### *John 10:26-29*

. <sup>26</sup> But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand.

### *John 6:37*

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

### *John 6:44*

<sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

### *John 6:65*

<sup>65</sup> And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

And yet...

### *John 12:32*

<sup>32</sup> And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

How do these statements that Jesus made in John’s Gospel, along with the quotation from Isaiah (in the context as shown) fit together?

(See the questions on the back of this page.)

What does it mean when John says they “could not believe” (12:39)?

How similar or different are the two versions of Isaiah 6:10, the original prophecy (translated from Hebrew in our English Bibles), and the quotation from John (possibly from the Septuagint, the Greek-language version of the Hebrew Bible)? Do the similarities and differences help you or confuse you?

How does the logic of combining several of Jesus’ statements affect your interpretation?

No one can come unless the Father draws him (John 6:44)

No one come unless granted by the Father (John 6:65)

Sheep are given by the Father (John 10:29)

All the Father gives will come (John 6:37)

Jesus is emphatic about carrying out the exact will of the Father: “the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me” (John 12:50). If the initiative in salvation is with the Father (John 6:37, 44, 65; 10:29), what does Jesus mean when He says He is the one who will “draw all men to Myself” (John 12:32)?

What other questions do these passages bring to your mind?