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## SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK: THE PATH OF URGENCY

**Scripture Focus: John 12:37–50**

### Sermon Overview

This study explores the **Crisis of the Calloused Heart**. We examine how a heart hardened by persistent unbelief and shackled by the craving for human approval transforms the gracious light of Christ's Word into the standard of one's own final judgment.

### The Danger of Your Heart's Silence (vv. 37–41)

- **The Evidence:** Despite "so many *miracles*" performed openly, many still refused to believe in Christ.
- **The Hardening Process:** "*Hardened*" refers to becoming petrified or callous, much like skin losing the ability to feel over time.
- **The Principle:** Consistent rejection of the truth leads to a loss of capacity to perceive or understand the things of God.
- **The Hope:** "*Conversion*" means to "*turn back*." As long as you have breath, you can return to the Light and be healed.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How can a person be surrounded by evidence and still choose the dark?
2. In what areas are you saying "*not yet*" to God? How does this add "*layers of stone*" to the heart?

### The Trap of Secret Convictions (vv. 42–46)

- **The Motive of Fear:** Some believed in private but remained silent for fear of being "*put out of the synagogue*."



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- **The "Doxa" Trade:** They loved the "praise of men" (*doxa*—repute or honor) more than the praise of God.
- **The Warning:** A faith that does not confess Christ openly is being suffocated by the fear of others.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the "*Pharisees*" in your life—those whose opinions you fear more than God's?
2. What specific compromise is God asking you to step out of today?

## The Weight of Your Final Standard (vv. 47–50)

- **The Purpose:** In His first coming, Jesus came as a Savior and Light, not to enact judgment, because the world was already under judgment.
- **The Blueprint:** Christ's words are the *Logos*—the divine blueprint of reality.
- **The Reckoning:** On the "last day," the Word you hear today will be the standard. You are deciding if Jesus will be your **Prosecutor** or your **Advocate**.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Why is "silence not safety" when facing the coming judgment?
2. How does it change your week to know that the Father's commandment is "life everlasting"?

**Memory Verse:** "*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.*" — **Proverbs 29:25**



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