

The **Jesus** Dilemma

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**Woulda, Coulda,
Shoulda (12:37-43)**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**They *would not*
believe, despite
the signs.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

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

ISAIAH 53:1

The **Jesus** Dilemma

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.

ISAIAH 53:3

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**Surely He took up our pain
and bore our suffering, yet we
considered Him punished by God,
stricken by Him, and afflicted.**

ISAIAH 53:4

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

ISAIAH 53:10

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“God’s purposes are not frustrated by the opposition of evil men. They are accomplished. The hand of God is in the consequences of their choice.”

LEON MORRIS

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**They *could not*
believe, because
of their hearts.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

JOHN 9:39

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

JOHN 9:40

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

JOHN 9:41

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“On the one hand, the people should have believed and are held guilty for disbelieving (12:37). On the other hand, God blinded their eyes so that they did not have the spiritual ability to believe (12:39).”

ESV STUDY BIBLE

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**“God’s sovereignty is never pitted
against human responsibility.”**

NIV ZONDERVAN STUDY BIBLE

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“The belief that God is sovereign in grace does not affect the responsibility of the sinner for his reaction to the Gospel.”

J.I. PACKER

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“If free will means that God gives humans the opportunity to make choices that genuinely affect their destiny, then human beings do have a free will...”

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“However, free will does not mean that mankind can do anything he pleases. Our choices are limited to what is in keeping with our nature...”

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“It is only through the grace and power of God that free will truly becomes ‘free’ in the sense of being able to choose salvation.”

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The **Jesus** Dilemma

**Some *should have*
confessed, but
feared backlash.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 10:32

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**“But whoever disowns Me
before others, I will disown
before My Father in heaven.**

MATTHEW 10:33

The **Jesus** Dilemma

“They still knew nothing of the powerful new birth that could make them children of God and enable them to enter the messianic kingdom. John wants them to know such secret faith will not do.”

D.A. CARSON

The **Jesus** Dilemma

*What does it mean for me
to openly confess Jesus
before others?*

**The Senses of
Belief (12:44-50)**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**Belief in Jesus
is belief in
the Father.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Seeing Jesus is
seeing the Father.

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Hearing Jesus
is hearing
the Father.

The **Jesus** Dilemma

Trusting Jesus
results in
eternal life.

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**“Jesus didn’t come as the Judge;
He comes with an offer and
invitation. But He will come as
a Judge at the end of time.”**

PASTOR DAN GREEN

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**Jesus himself
brings invitation
and division.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

**To accept
results in
salvation and life.
To reject results
in judgment.**

The **Jesus** Dilemma

