

The Plot to Kill Jesus----- John 11:45 - 57 (NLT)

⁴⁵MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH MARY BELIEVED IN JESUS WHEN THEY SAW THIS HAPPEN.

⁴⁶BUT SOME WENT TO THE PHARISEES AND TOLD THEM WHAT JESUS HAD DONE.

- *Isn't it amazing how some people find a way to turn great news into something negative and contentious?!*

⁴⁷THEN THE LEADING PRIESTS AND PHARISEES CALLED THE HIGH COUNCIL TOGETHER. "WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?" THEY ASKED EACH OTHER. "THIS MAN CERTAINLY PERFORMS MANY MIRACULOUS SIGNS.

- *Evidence that signs and wonders alone are not always enough to get people to believe in Jesus. Remember the rich man. Lu.16:31*

⁴⁸IF WE ALLOW HIM TO GO ON LIKE THIS, SOON EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE IN HIM. THEN THE ROMAN ARMY WILL COME AND DESTROY BOTH OUR TEMPLE AND OUR NATION."

- *At the end of the day, it simply boiled down to money and power. Sound familiar. By the way, they still lost both.*

⁴⁹CAIAPHAS, WHO WAS HIGH PRIEST AT THAT TIME, SAID, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

⁵⁰YOU DON'T REALIZE THAT IT'S BETTER FOR YOU THAT ONE MAN SHOULD DIE FOR THE PEOPLE THAN FOR THE WHOLE NATION TO BE DESTROYED."

⁵¹HE DID NOT SAY THIS ON HIS OWN; AS HIGH PRIEST AT THAT TIME HE WAS LED TO PROPHECY THAT JESUS WOULD DIE FOR THE ENTIRE NATION.

- *Two points: In v.48, wouldn't be great if we all could "go on like this" so that people would witness Christ in us and believe in God?? Secondly, God used unsuspecting Caiaphas to prophesy on Jesus behalf. God always wins!!!!!!*

⁵²AND NOT ONLY FOR THAT NATION, BUT TO BRING TOGETHER AND UNITE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD.

⁵³SO FROM THAT TIME ON, THE JEWISH LEADERS BEGAN TO PLOT JESUS' DEATH.

⁵⁴AS A RESULT, JESUS STOPPED HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY AMONG THE PEOPLE AND LEFT JERUSALEM. HE WENT TO A PLACE NEAR THE WILDERNESS, TO THE VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM, AND STAYED THERE WITH HIS DISCIPLES.

⁵⁵IT WAS NOW ALMOST TIME FOR THE JEWISH PASSOVER CELEBRATION, AND MANY PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM SEVERAL DAYS EARLY SO THEY COULD GO THROUGH THE PURIFICATION CEREMONY BEFORE PASSOVER BEGAN.

⁵⁶THEY KEPT LOOKING FOR JESUS, BUT AS THEY STOOD AROUND IN THE TEMPLE, THEY SAID TO EACH OTHER, "WHAT DO YOU THINK? HE WON'T COME FOR PASSOVER, WILL HE?"

⁵⁷MEANWHILE, THE LEADING PRIESTS AND PHARISEES HAD PUBLICLY ORDERED THAT ANYONE SEEING JESUS MUST REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY SO THEY COULD ARREST HIM.

Key points in John 11:

1. *The experience of Lazarus is a good illustration of what happens to a sinner when he trusts the Savior (Eph. 2:1-10). Lazarus was dead, and all sinners are dead. He was decayed, because death and decay go together. All lost people are spiritually dead, but some are more "decayed" than others. No one can be "more dead" than another.*
2. *Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of God, and all who trust Christ have been given new life and lifted out of the graveyard of sin (see John 5:24). Lazarus was set free from the grave clothes (see Col. 3:1) and given new liberty.*
3. *Because of the great change in Lazarus, many people desired to see him; and his "living witness" was used by God to bring people to salvation (John 12:9-11). There are no recorded words of Lazarus in the Gospels, but*

his daily walk is enough to convince people that Jesus is the Son of God. Because of his effective witness, Lazarus was persecuted by the religious leaders who wanted to kill him and get rid of the evidence.

4. As with the previous miracles, the people were divided in their response. Some did believe and on "Palm Sunday" gave witness of the miracle Jesus had performed (John 12:17-18). But others immediately went to the religious leaders and reported what had happened in Bethany. These "informers" were so near the kingdom, yet there is no evidence that they believed.
5. It was necessary that the Jewish council (Sanhedrin) meet and discuss what to do with Jesus. They were not seeking after truth; they were seeking for ways to protect their own selfish interests. If He gathered too many followers, He might get the attention of the Roman authorities; and this could hurt the Jewish cause.
6. The high priest, Caiaphas, was a Sadducee, not a Pharisee (Acts 23:6-10); but the two factions could always get together to fight a common enemy. Unknown to himself and to the council, Caiaphas uttered a divine prophecy: Jesus would die for the nation so that the nation would not perish. "For the transgression of My people was He stricken" (Isa. 53:8). True to his vision of a worldwide family of God, John added his inspired explanation: Jesus would die not only for the Jews, but for all of God's children who would be gathered together in one heavenly family. (Note John 4:42 and 10:16.)
7. The official decision that day was that Jesus must die (see Matt. 12:14; Luke 19:47; John 5:18; 7:1, 19-20, 25). The leaders thought that they were in control of the situation, but it was God who was working out His predetermined plan (Acts 2:23). Originally, they wanted to wait until after the Passover, but God had decreed otherwise.

The stage had been set for the greatest drama in history, during which man would do his worst and God would give His best

Responses to Jesus	
Throughout <u>chapter 11</u> we are given a variety of personal responses to Jesus. None of them are neutral. People who met Jesus formed specific opinions about him. Among them are the following.	
Response:	Do you know someone who:
Some, like Mary and Martha, displayed faith that needed to deepen.	needs to deepen his/her faith?
Some saw the miracle of Lazarus's resurrection and concluded that Jesus must be telling the truth about his identity. So they put their faith in him.	needs to put his/her faith in Christ?
Some saw the miracle and concluded that it was merely another reason to get rid of Jesus the troublemaker.	considers Jesus merely a source of trouble?
Some heard about the miracle and could only see Jesus as a threat to their power and position.	finds Jesus threatening?
Some decided that Jesus must be killed and planned accordingly.	would remove Jesus if that were possible?
Some arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover still curious about Jesus, moving toward acceptance or rejection.	is curious and might be open to the Good News?
Tell them the Good News, that new life is available in Christ!	

Note: The Jews rejected their only salvation in favor of peace with Rome, but just forty years later, in A.D. 70, they revolted against Rome. As a result, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, and the Jews were expelled from their homeland. This had already occurred when John wrote this Gospel.

Miracles certainly reveal the power of God..... but of themselves they cannot communicate the grace of God.

John 11 reveals the deity of Jesus Christ and the utter depravity of the human heart. The rich man in hades had argued, "If one went unto them from the dead, they will repent" (Luke 16:30). Lazarus came back from the dead, and the officials wanted to kill him!.

Monday Morning Moment:

If the heart will not yield to truth, then the grace of God cannot bring salvation. (These people could have experienced a spiritual resurrection in their own lives!)

ROMANS 10:9 - 10 (NLT) ⁹IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.

¹⁰FOR IT IS BY BELIEVING IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD, AND IT IS BY CONFESSING WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU ARE SAVED.

Homework Q & A: *(Please use scripture where appropriate to support your answers.)*

1. How are you measuring your daily walk with the Lord? Can you share clear examples in areas where you have grown spiritually? Please study John 12 closely for next week.