

Dr. Jerry Nelson and Dori Sear

The Plot to Kill Jesus

1. (v. 11:45- 46) What had the “Jews” seen (see chapter 10)?

We have previously heard of people placing their faith in Jesus when the faith was shallow at best or spurious at worst. How are we to characterize the faith of these in v. 45?

What are likely motivations for some of them going to the Pharisees and telling what Jesus had done?

2. (v. 11:47-48) What is the chief concern of the priests and Pharisees? What most motivates their actions?

On what basis might the priests’ motivations be less onerous and more altruistic than they at first appear?

3. (v. 11:49-52) What would the other priests have understood Caiaphas to mean by his statement (read v. 48)?

To what does John attribute Caiaphas’ words?

Which two groups would Jesus die for and what are the results?

Who are the “scattered children of God?” (Read 10:16; 17:20)

4. (v. 11:53-54) On other occasions they spontaneously tried to kill Jesus; what is different about the Jews’ actions now?

If Jesus came to die for his people, why does he withdraw instead of letting them take him at this time? (See 10:18; 2:4; 12:23)

5. (v. 11:55-57) Jesus seems to be the “talk of the town”. Describe the social and political climate at the Passover.

How does v. 57 inform us about Judas' actions in John 13:2 and Luke 22:3-6?

Knowing that this chapter introduces the last week of Jesus' life, of what significance is "Passover"?

Personal Reflection

In this passage, tensions are mounting. For some, the raising of Lazarus brought a belief in Jesus. Describe what might be the hope of those who believe.

The powerful impression of this final miracle brought life and death. Who found life? Who experienced death?

For many people today, the loss of position, power, and/or prestige is an unbearable loss. Losing their self-serving life to gain eternal life seems too high a price. What blinds them? How does one change perspective from the temporal to the eternal?

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Previous lessons are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Dori Sear at dsear@sgc.org

