



Sermon: "An Unexpected Explanation of the Gospel"

Scripture: John 11:45-57

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Introduction:

By Passover week, Jerusalem was buzzing with excitement, anticipation and political intrigue. (v. 57; 12:12-19)

What caused this mess?

I. Jesus' Demonstrations of Divine Power Produced Passionate Reactions. (11:45-50; 53-57)

a) A Nation Divided. (v. 45-46; John 7:43)

- Some Witnesses Believed.

Scripture: John 11:25-26

- Some Witnesses Doubted and Whispered.

b) The Chief Priests and Pharisees Feared & Conspired. (v. 47-50)

Scripture: John 9:16; 10:19-21

To this point, the chief priests and Pharisees had been divided,
but their fear of losing power brought them together.

c) The Crowds Wondered & Waited.

Scripture: John 12:13

II. Caiaphas' Pragmatic Plot & Powerful Gospel Prophecy (11:47-52)

In the heart of mankind there is an arrogant desire to fix problems
with human solutions which demand divine remedy. (Colossians 2:20-23)

What did Caiaphas' prophecy really mean?

a) He prophesied Jesus' death as a substitute for Israel. (11:51-52a)

Both Caiaphas and John saw Jesus' death as substitutionary:

either Jesus dies or the nation dies.

b) It alluded to Jesus' death as a substitute for the true **children** of God. (11:52b; 1:12-13)

Jesus, though he'd not yet even been arrested,
was essentially tried and **sentenced** at that moment.

III. Jesus' Patient & Obedient Response to the High Priest's Prophetic Plot (11:53)

Scripture: John 4:1; 7:1

1. Jesus would not be pushed or forced to the cross (his death) **unwillingly**.
2. Jesus would not be forced to the cross **prematurely**.

Scripture: 2 Cor. 5:21

Conclusion:

Is Jesus...

- Your functional savior?
- A troubling disruption of your desires?
- Your resurrection and life? (John 20:31; John 3:16; Romans 3:23)

In Jesus' words to Mary, "do YOU believe?"

Questions to Consider:

1. What led to the responses of each of the groups of people in verses 45-57?
2. What are some ways that we incorrectly view Jesus? How do these views cause us to respond to him unbiblically?
3. What are some ways that we try to fix sin problems with human solutions? (Colossians 2:20-23; Ephesians 2:8-9)
4. The fact that Caiaphas did not know that he was even prophesying is incredibly ironic. What does it tell us about God?
5. What were the differences between what Caiaphas said and what his prophecy meant?
6. What does Jesus' response to the high priest's plan to arrest him tell us about His view of the Father?