

Jesus Believe Him or Reject Him

John 11:45-57

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.

If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish."

He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather

into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.

They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?" Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

Whoever is not with Me is against Me and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.

Lk. 11:23

Why were people refusing to believe in Jesus?

They were afraid of losing...

1. The approval of people in authority.

... but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

Jn. 11:46

This man performs many signs. Jn. 11:47

Story of the rich man pleaded for someone to warn his family. Luke 16:31

Abraham said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know so they might arrest Him..

Jn. 11:57

For fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of Him.

Jn. 7:13

(Parents of the man born blind)

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to Be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.

Jn. 9:22

If “they say –Christians are ---

Nazis – believe in traditional marriage, protect the unborn

Bigots – believe in distinct roles of men and women

Destroying our nation – want to have Biblical values

Narrow minded – want everyone to follow Jesus

Dumb – believe in creation and the Bible

The “crowd” follows those in “authority”

2. The attachment to the things of this world.

If we let Him go on like this everyone will believe in Him and the Romans will come and take away... Jn. 11:48

... both our place

. Temple? (Acts 6:13; 21:28; Matt. 24:15 “the Holy place”)

. City?

. Our authority, our power

. The status quo, our money, our homes

And our nation ...

. System of government

. Way of life

. Jewish people – would become slaves

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. Ps. 24:1

All the earth is mine. Ex. 19:5

Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Ps. 100:3

What do you have that you did not receive? 1 Cor. 4:7
Following Jesus means –

- the full surrender of my life, my priorities, my choices, my resources, my family, my marriage, my body, my future, my job, my stuff.

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.
1 Cor. 6:19-20

“As a Christian, I am called to live a holy life. My standard for living is set by God, not by the world. I am responsible for growing and sharing the gospel.”

Then after reading Paul's words in Phil. 2:3 – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”

“Humility is getting on your knees and staying in God’s will – what HE wants for me, not what the world wants.

He added:

“ It would be easy to go out and do whatever I want, but those things only satisfy the flesh for a moment. Jesus satisfies my soul forever.”

Albert Pujols – L.A. Angels

Put conditions of following Jesus?

. I’ll follow you if...

I can still do what I want

I can still sin when I want

I get all my answers to prayer

my way

in my timing!

Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him

1 Jn. 2:15

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Matt. 16:26a

“God can’t clean the house of you when you’re still in it.”

Why were people believing
in Jesus?

They were seeking Jesus because...

1. His life brought hope

Many of the Jews therefore who had come with Mary and
had seen what He did believed in Him. Jn. 11:45

If we let Him go on like this everyone will believe in Him.

Why?

He has power

He gives hope

He loves

They were looking for Jesus... (56a)

No God

Know God

No Hope

Know Hope

2. His death would bring salvation.

But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year,
said to them, “you know nothing at all...” Jn. 11:49

Caiaphas

- . A Sadducee (friend of Rome)
- . Held office for 18 yrs
- . Son in law to Annas

Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish (50)

Also Jn. 18:14

He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation. (51)

As for you, you meant evil against me but God meant it for good. Gen. 50:20

... and not for the nation only but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad...
(52)

- "on behalf of"
- "in place of"

One has died for all...

He died for all, that those who live might no longer live

for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. 2 Cor. 5:14-18

He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. Isa. 53:3

The Lord has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.
Isa. 53:6b

He, Himself, bore our sins
in His body on the tree...
1 Pet 2:24

The Passover of the Jews was at hand –
Many went to purify themselves ---

- time for self –reflection and time to get right with God.
- knew their sin – knew they needed forgiveness.

High priest chose the lamb for the nation – the substitute.

- Passover preparations find the best lamb (55)

3. His power brought life

When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there – they came. Jn. 12:9

...not only on account of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

Jn. 12:9

So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well (10)

- They didn't believe in the "resurrection" Matt 22:23

... because on account of him (Lazarus) many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. (11)

I want His Power!

Power over sin, Satan and death!

Power over past hurts and habits and hang-ups

Power to live in victory!

Lazarus was a living, walking reminder of the power of Jesus!

Are you?