

Different Responses to Jesus

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John 11:45-57

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Different Reactions

- 9/11/2001 - Americans grieved; others across the world celebrated
- Raising Lazarus was a polarizing event: many believed⁴⁵; some tattled⁴⁶

An Evil Council

- Jewish leaders already hostile to Jesus^{5:18;7:1,19,30,32,44;8:40,59;10:31,39}
- Council faced a dilemma - *what are we to do?*⁴⁷
- Unlikely coalition - Pharisees:religious party & Saducees:politicians - usually at odds with one another... but they had common enemy: Jesus

Truth Declared but Rejected

- They acknowledged Jesus did miracles⁴⁷
- Jesus' power had stymied them^{7:46} previously – now stumped
- Hard hearts didn't allow them to see the signs for what they were
- They had come to rely on worldly power, not God
- They were to be guardians of God's truths & power
- Likely taught of many miracles from OT, but wouldn't see Jesus' signs
- Lived in fear of Romans and couldn't stand Jesus' calls for radical faith^{Mk8:34-38}
- How do we avoid this cynical pragmatism? Humbly seek God^{Ps139:23-24;Eph1:17-23}

An Evil Conclusion

- Caiaphas was a pragmatist - high priest by God's plan
- God used Caiaphas to prophesy about Jesus' purposes⁵¹⁻⁵²
- Caiaphas was willing to sacrifice Jesus to save the temple from Romans
- Caiaphas had lost sight of his calling - didn't protect... destruction of A.D. 70
- Lesson: you can't oppose God's plans^{Prov19:21}

God's Perfect Plan Declared by an Unbeliever

- By God's overruling providence Caiaphas spoke of "Why did Jesus die?"
- Caiaphas should have known^{Gen3:15;Gen12:2-3;Dt18:15;passover;Isa53}
- Caiaphas points us to Jesus' substitutionary atonement^{11:51-52}
- Is it immoral for innocent Jesus to die for sinners? Jesus is God-His plan^{Eph1:4-10}
- Jesus' work is definite atonement - 'the' nation & the children of God
- Jesus' earlier words: *those that the Father has given me*^{6:37,39}
- Jesus redeems His chosen - *whoever believes*^{3:16,18}
- To Caiaphas Jesus' death was a sad, but necessary affair
- To God it was an act of Redeeming Grace
- At the Cross, Jesus fulfilled the Temple and is the gathering point for believers from every tribe and tongue^{Rev7:9}

Three Choices for You:

- You can try to ignore Jesus – not wise^{Heb9:27} as Jesus will be your judge^{Jn5:22-24}
- You can oppose Jesus – history is full of those who have tried... where are they now? Yet, the Church of Jesus Christ still remains...
- You can believe on Jesus and follow Him – Jesus' words^{11:25-26}