

John 11:47-57

Verses 47-48

- Some that had been a witness to the resurrection of Lazarus went and told the Pharisees about what Jesus had done. This had brought their hatred and worry to an all-time high which resulted in the chief priest and the Pharisees convening a council to discuss their options and plan.
- The council that was assembled was the Sanhedrin which was the religious and political body of Israel.
- Their fear is that Jesus is gaining in popularity and the more people that witness His works, the more people that will believe in Him and follow Him. They are afraid that would cause them to lose their power and prestige and the Romans would come and stop any uprising or revolt they feared would be accompanied by a mass number of people following Jesus. They feared the Romans would come and take away their freedom and power all because of so many people following Jesus.

Verses 49-52

- Caiaphas was high priest that year. His father-in-law was Annas who was previously the high priest and continued to have power and influence among the group.
- Caiaphas was a Sadducee. Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or in the spiritual realm such as angels. The Sadducees and Pharisees disagreed on multiple issues but were united in their hatred of Jesus.
- God sovereignly and providential used Caiaphas and the evil intentions of his words against Christ to be a prophecy describing the beauty and the purpose of the death of Christ.
- God can use ungodly people to accomplish His desires. God spoke through a donkey ([Numbers 22:22-41](#)) and used Cyrus (who was not a righteous man) to speak the words that Israel would return from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple ([Isaiah 44:28](#))([Ezra 1:1-4](#))
- Caiaphas declares that for the sake of the good of the nation, Jesus must die so that the nation will not perish.
- It was for the good of the sheep that Jesus died so that would have eternal life and not perish.
 - [John 3:16](#) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^[a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
 - [John 10:28](#) and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Verses 53

- The Pharisees and Sadducees join forces with one common goal: kill Jesus. They had already determined He was guilty, even without a proper trial.
 - [Proverbs 17:15](#) He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.

Verse 54

As a result of this plan that was implanted to kill Him, Jesus withdrew to the country near the wilderness into a city called Ephraim. This would be the final moments before He would head to Bethany and then Jerusalem in the final week of His life. He spends this time intimately with His disciples.

Verses 55-57

- Passover was approaching and many people would arrive at Jerusalem early to purify themselves, exchange currency, and purchase animals to sacrifice.
- The chief priests and the Pharisees had already given orders to that if anyone knew where He was at or saw Him, they were to report it so they could seize Him.

- With the order given that Jesus was to be arrested if He showed up, the questions arose: “What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?”
- Jesus was not only coming the Passover, but He is the Passover Lamb! The Passover was a shadow pointing to the true Passover Lamb to be slain, Jesus.
 - **John 1:29** The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 - **1 Corinthians 5:7** Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

Christ divides. You are either a child of God or a child of the devil. You are either a wheat or a tare. You are either a sheep or a goat. You are either saved or lost. You are either for God or against Him. You are either dead in sin or alive in Christ. The division is Christ and if you believe in Him. You either love Jesus or you hate Him. He brings division (**Luke 12:49-53**). All through the gospel according to John, we have seen the people are divided in regards to Christ. In these verses we see a group that hate Jesus and plot to kill Him. They are going to seize, arrest, and kill an innocent man. The order has been given and the people are aware of the plan to seize Him. They begin to gather at Passover anticipating and wondering whether or not He will come because they know if He comes, He will be arrested. The looming question is “will He attend Passover?” Not only will He attend Passover, He is the Passover Lamb. Caiphas was right even though he didn’t know the true meaning of what He said. It was better that One die so that the elect of Israel and the Gentiles be gathered together and not perish. Who is this One that dies so that this could be a reality? The Passover Lamb!