



## THE EXPEDIENT DEATH OF JESUS

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

The High Priest thought it expedient that one man die for the people. So did God. God took the life of His Son so that He wouldn't have to take yours.

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### READ THE TEXT: [John 18:13-14, 19-24](#)

<sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people...

<sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup>When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" <sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you glean from the text and sermon that seem to indicate that the treatment of Jesus was unjust?
2. According to John 11:45-48, what was the motivation of the Sanhedrin (highest judicial body in Israel) for doing away with Jesus?
3. The opponents of Jesus remind us that it is possible to be religious and yet still lost.
4. The religious leaders did not want Jesus imposing on their way of life and status. It is tempting to base our decisions on how they will affect our comfort, convenience, and status rather than adhering to the clear imperatives of Scripture. In what aspects of your faith do you experience that temptation most?
5. Why do we try so hard to self-justify rather than justification through Jesus Christ alone?
6. Thankfully it was not only Caiaphas who thought it expedient that Jesus die for the people but God as well! What amazes you about the gospel in John 11:49-52?
7. Do a brief study and discussion on the mission of God in the world as described in these texts: John 10:16; John 11:52; and Acts 18:9-10.

## CONCLUSION

Jesus came not to form a new brand of cold dead religion but to save us, reconcile us to God, and bring us into loving relationship with Him. And this redemption is our great privilege to share with the world.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

