



## God's Good Plan Prevails

A key element of discipleship together is knowing each other well. Take a few minutes to share Evidences of God's Grace that you experienced this week. It could come from a passage of scripture, a simple conversation, or something that happened, where God revealed himself to you. Closing in grateful prayer to God for His faithfulness.

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### OPENING COMMENT

This week we see that Jesus's miracles caused division and worry among the Pharisees. Some of the Jews believed in Jesus, but the Pharisees did not. For centuries the Pharisees knew a Messiah would come, but their corruption motivated them. Would Jesus take away their power or remove their status? A conspiracy was born and the final week of Jesus' life was put into motion. Little did they know that in working against Jesus they were accomplishing God's plan. We can always trust that God's good plan prevails.

What big takeaway or truth from the Word stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 11:45-57

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup>but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup>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." <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup>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." <sup>51</sup>He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the



children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. <sup>54</sup>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. <sup>55</sup>Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. <sup>56</sup>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?" <sup>57</sup>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.

### **1. Who Jesus is Demands a Choice to be Made**

1. Looking at the passage, what are some of the factors that divided the crowds - for those who believed in him (v.45) and those who opposed him (vs 46-53)?
2. What would the cultural setting have looked like during this conversation? What would have been the challenges and roadblocks that stopped people from believing in Jesus?
3. Why is it that today, some people would declare that "I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God" - How does the secular worldview conflict with a biblical worldview, regarding who Jesus is? What is the importance of explaining a Biblical worldview when sharing the Gospel message?

### **2. Regardless of our Choices God's Good Plan Prevails**

1. The prophecy and plot of Caiaphas shows his arrogant character, and yet his words and actions are not outside of God's good plan of salvation. Look at the text and examine what he said compared to why Jesus died for us all. Can you identify God's plan?
2. We see the religious leaders choose against Jesus, but in their choosing against Jesus they are actually enacting God's plan. Read the following passages: John 1:1-5; Rev 22:13; John 1:14; John 15:26, 16:7 - Why can we have confidence in God's good plan regardless of our choices?

### **3. We are Given a Choice**

1. The passage ends with the leaders putting out an order that if anyone sees Jesus they need to report him so he can be arrested. The people are forced to make a choice for or against Jesus. The crowds are murmuring and searching for Jesus without full understanding. Many are doing the same thing today. Share a time



when you had to publicly make a choice about the truth of the Gospel and what you profess about Jesus.

#### 4. Application

1. Chapter 11 shows us some critical aspects about who Jesus is. Jesus is our friend who grieves with us. He is our power to accomplish all He asks of us. Jesus is our substitute for our sins and He is our life eternal. How we respond to Jesus shows others how we truly feel about Him. How do you respond to who Jesus is, during the everyday stuff of life?

#### CONCLUSION

*Why is the question of Jesus' true identity so important? Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God? Jesus had to be God so that he could pay our debt. Jesus had to be man so he could die. We are all given a choice and have free will to make it. Will you make a choice for Jesus? Have you and will you rest in the knowledge that God's good plan prevails?*

#### SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this text and your discussion around it.
- Pray for God's leading for your Life Group that he may identify a mission field for you to engage in together. Thank God for specific ways your group is like family to you and how they show you different aspects of the love of God and challenge you as a disciple of Jesus.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

