

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 5, 2021

### John 11: 45 - 57

**45** Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. **46** But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. **47** Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. **48** If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. **49** And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, **50** Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. **51** And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; **52** And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. **53** Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. **54** Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples. **55** And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. **56** Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? **57** Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

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Pastor Tom read the entire passage and then began to break it down.

## Verses 45 and 46

*Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. 46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.*

\*The title of these 2 verse could be: "Division and Controversy"

\*We see 2 different camps or reactions to Jesus who has just raised Lazarus from the dead.

1. One group of people saw the miracle that Jesus did and knew it had to be a 'God Thing'. They saw the testimony of what Jesus did and they believed in who He was.
2. The second group saw exactly the same miracle the first group saw, the same testimony of what Jesus did, but they took the story to the Pharisees. Why?

\*We don't exactly know why but we might assume it was because of the loyalty they felt toward the Pharisees.

\*We observe the same division of people today: One group hears a testimony about Jesus and they go to the altar to commit their heart to Jesus. Another group, hearing the exact same message, stay in their seats and make no commitment to Jesus. Why??

Some answers offered included:

Maybe their hearts were not ready.

Maybe it was not their time or they thought they had lots more time to make that commitment...procrastinators. They may be waiting for that deathbed conversion before they make things right with God. But if someone turns Jesus down too many times, their hearts can grow cold and hard.

\*What has to happen? They need to confess that they are sinners, repent from their sins, heal the broken relationship they have with God. And the Holy Spirit will draw them to Jesus. God, through the Holy Spirit, is a gentleman, if you tell him to go away, He will and leave you alone!

\*There is a low percentage of Americans who attend church. Young people become 'nones', they do not believe in anything. Very sad.

## Verses 47 and 48

*Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. 48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.*

\*This is the Pharisees' reaction when the people told them about Jesus' latest miracle: His fame was spreading because of these miracles (feeding 5000 people, calming the sea, healing many...) So if we do not do anything about Him, everyone will believe in Him and Romans will take away the power, prestige and position we have now.

\*This is very much like our politicians today: They appear to be more loyal to their party than to the idea of public service to the people they represent. And because much money/resources are needed to run for office, only rich people can be in power.

\*We must be diligent to what/whom we listen to in the political world. Pastor Tom is reading through Jeremiah and Lamentations right now and noted how the author warned against praying to the 'queen of heaven' and this was 700 years before Jesus walked on earth.

\*But why do these bands or gangs exist? And why are people so loyal to their leadership? What groups or clusters will our kids or grandkids belong to? And what will they be encouraged to do or believe because of their loyalty to those people?

Discussion moved into the subject of gambling. Several viewpoints were shared. The idea of vowing to God was also brought up. Pastor Jon found these scripture verses about vows:

Ecclesiastes 5:4

Numbers 30 (The entire chapter)

Deuteronomy 23: 21 - 23

## **Verses 49 through 52**

*And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, 50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. 51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; 52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.*

\*Caiaphas was the High Priest, the top dog that year. He is saying that in order to maintain the status quo with the Romans, it is better for one man, Jesus, to die and be gone from the picture, than for the entire nation to be punished. He was not intending to be prophetic in his statements.

## **Verse 53**

*Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.*

\*This statement shows that the Jewish leaders were actively, premeditating on how and when to murder Jesus.

## **Verses 54 through 57**

*Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples. 55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. 56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? 57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.*

\*Jesus now avoids crowds but as the Passover approaches, He is required, as all Jewish males of a certain age are, to go to Jerusalem for the festival. This is setting Jesus up to be the Sacrificial Lamb for Passover.

\*The Jewish leaders knew Jesus would be required to show up in Jerusalem and they wanted to be ready to kill Him.

Pastor Tom's parting question to us: How do we stay faithful and solid in our walk when we encounter these gray areas?

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May the Lord watch between me and thee  
While we are absent one from the other.

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