

## The Passover of the Jews was near

*John 11:45-57*

*45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.*

*47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. 48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." 51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.*

*54 Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples.*

*55 Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves. 56 So they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" 57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him.*

Our passage this morning describes a time of transition. /It is the transition period between the raising of Lazarus from the dead (in Bethany) and the anointing of Jesus by Mary (also in Bethany).\

/During this particular time, Jesus retires to the countryside with his disciples.\ He did everything according to the times set by the Father, and it was not quite time yet for His hour to begin.

But it's not as if nothing happens during this transition. Quite the contrary: it is a time when things intensify rapidly.

/First, the council of chief priests and Pharisees had launched an all-out effort to arrest Jesus and put Him to death.\

*53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.*

*57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him.*

/Second, many Jews were coming to believe in Jesus.\

*45 Therefore **many** of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him*

*48 "If we let Him go on like this, **all men** will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*

/Third, many Jews were gathering in Jerusalem for the Passover.\

*55 Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and **many** went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves.*

/When Jesus returns to Jerusalem, He will find Himself directly in the path of this intensifying storm.\

We pick up the narrative in verse 49. Caiaphas responds to the fears expressed by the other members of the council.

*John 11:49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."*

Caiaphas was a typical Sadducee: rude, abrupt, and arrogant. He tells the others that they are stupid. The answer was staring them in the face.

He knew his audience. He was one of them after all. /They didn't care about the finer points of justice or fairness. They wanted to get rid of their problem.\ They wanted to hold on to their prestige and power. So they made a deal with the devil.

And Caiaphas made them an offer that they couldn't refuse.

/There are seven sins which are an abomination to the Lord. \

*Prov 6:16-19*

*16 There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:*

*17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,*

*18 A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,*

*19 A false witness who utters lies,  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

/Caiaphas and his co-conspirators committed every one of them.\

They thought that their schemes would preserve their fiefdom. /They forgot that the Lord decides the fate of the nation and her leaders – not the Romans. \

*Jer 7:3-7*

*3 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 "Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.' 5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.*

/Caiaphas spoke only to persuade the others to agree to his wicked plan.\

*Joh 11:49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."*

*51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.*

Nevertheless, he unwittingly uttered a great prophecy. This Man Jesus, the One whom Caiaphas hated, is the savior of the world.

/Little did Caiaphas know that by condemning Jesus to death, he set in motion a series of events that led to the hour when Jesus would be most glorified. \

*John 12:23-24*

*23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

/The wrath of man praises God. What Caiaphas meant for great evil God meant for unfathomable good.\

*Acts 2:22-24*

*22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*

/John, the writer of this gospel, pointed out that Jesus would die not only for the nation of Israel but also for the people of every other nation.\

He died for all, so that whoever believes in Him would become a child of God. (John 1:12-13).

*Joh 11:51 Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.*



/Caiaphas had no idea but he in fact proclaimed the central doctrine of Christianity: the unlimited, substitutionary atonement of Christ. \

The USA consists of three interlocking facts:

/

1. The death of Christ was the atoning sacrifice for sin.
2. Jesus died as the substitute for (in place of ) sinners.
3. And He died for the sins of the whole world. Every person without exception. \

/The death of Christ is the atoning sacrifice for sin.\

*Matt 26:27-28*

*27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.*

*John 1:29*

*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!"*

*Heb 9:26*

*26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

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/He died as the substitute for sinners: \

*Isa 53:5-6*

*But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.*

*6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all  
To fall on Him.*

*1 Cor 15:3-4*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

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*2 Cor 5:14-15*

*14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

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/He died for the sins of every human being:\

*1 Tim 2:3-6*

*3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

*Heb 2:9*

*9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*

*1 John 2:1-2*

*1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

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Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! (Rom 11:33)