

Series: Life to the Full; *Sermon:* **Killing Jesus**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **June 3, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 11:45–57

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If 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.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

⁵⁴Jesus 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.

⁵⁵Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶They 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?” ⁵⁷Now 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. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What two differing responses (vv. 45-46) to Jesus’ raising of Lazarus are noted?
2. Did the members of the Jewish high council (v. 47) dispute that Jesus had performed miraculous signs?

But was their concern (v. 48) about exploring Jesus’ true identity or about their own political expediency?

What word of Jesus would soon tell the Roman governor that the high council’s opposition was misdirected? (See *John 18:36*.)

Pastor Moody portrayed God as managing the high priest’s speech like a divine judo wrestler, leveraging his words to accurately predict an unintended spiritual outcome.

3. What did Caiaphas signal (vv. 49-50) as essential to prolonging the existence of the Jewish nation and its temple?

How (v. 53) did the high council respond?

Did his solution, when carried out, produce the outcome Caiaphas expected? (Hint: what happened in 70 A.D.?)

4. John tell us (vv. 51-52) that the high priest’s words were an unintentional prophesy. What was their true spiritual significance?

How does death bring life? (See *John 12:24*.)

5. How (vv. 54-57) did Jesus respond to the growing threat from Jewish rulers?

Why should we avoid conflict as far as possible? (See *Rom. 12:18*.)

Why would the high council, aware of Jesus’ faithfulness to the law, plan to set a Jerusalem trap for him at Passover?

What hostility should we realistically expect? (See *John 15:20; 1 Pet. 4:19*.)