

John 11:47-57

John 11:47-48 – *“(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.”*

A. The leadership of the Jews, whom were against Jesus, were willing to assemble to create a plan against our Lord (**Matthew 26:1-4** and **Matthew 27:1-2**).

1. It is not a new thing that men would take counsel against our Lord (**Psalms 2:1-4** and **Psalms 71:10-12**).

2. It is foolish for men to think their counsel can stand against God (**Proverbs 19:21**, **Isaiah 7:5-7**, and **Proverbs 21:30**).

3. It was the counsel of God that Jesus be put to death (**Matthew 26:24**, **Acts 2:22-24**, and **I Peter 1:18-21**), thus their ultimate plan was going to be in accordance with the Lord’s plan (**I Peter 2:8**; cf. **Isaiah 46:10-11**).

B. The Jews wanted to silence our Lord because they feared losing their place and nation (**Mark 11:18**; cf. **Luke 11:52**).

1. They knew they could not deny the true miracles that had been witnessed (**John 12:17-19** and **Acts 4:13-17**).

2. They feared that all would believe on the Lord, as mighty works do tend to move people (**Exodus 14:31**).

a. Mighty works do not provide lasting faith (**Psalms 106:1-14**; cf. **Romans 1:16**).

b. It is the goal of our Lord that all men believe on Him unto salvation (**John 1:7**, **I Timothy 2:4**, and **Titus 2:11**).

c. However, we know this will never occur (**Luke 13:23-24**).

John 11:49-53 – *“(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.”*

A. Caiaphas, the high priest for that year, gives counsel to kill Jesus (**John 18:13-14**).

1. Caiaphas acted like a “know-it-all” (**Proverbs 26:12** and **Isaiah 5:21**).

2. Unknowingly (cf. **Numbers 22:28**), Caiaphas prophesies that Jesus will die for that nation (**Matthew 20:28**, **Luke 19:10**, **Romans 11:26-27**, and **Galatians 4:4-5**).

3. The prophecy included that the remnant would be gathered from abroad (**Isaiah 11:10-12**, **Romans 9:27**, and **Romans 11:1-5**).

B. From that day forward they took counsel to kill Jesus (**Mark 3:6**).

1. Sadly, this hatred for our Lord will continue even after His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven (**I Thessalonians 2:14-16**).
2. They truly planned and spoke of things of which they did not understand (**Luke 23:34** and **Jude 10**).

John 11:54-57 – *“(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.”*

A. Jesus would not allow Himself to be killed before His work was finished on this earth (**Matthew 12:14-15**, **Luke 9:51**, **Luke 22:53**, and **John 13:1-3**).

1. The Lord knew what was coming (**Matthew 16:21**).
2. He did not go into hiding (**John 18:20**), He just didn't walk in the open.

B. The Jews looked for Jesus as the Passover drew near for this was a time when the Jews, including Jesus, came to Jerusalem (**II Chronicles 30:5**, **Luke 2:41**, and **John 2:13**).

1. Jesus will be in Bethany at this time (**John 12:1**).
2. Bethany is near to Jerusalem (**Mark 11:11**).
3. The command had been issued that if anyone knew where Jesus was they should report it to the chief priests and/or the Pharisees. This is not new, for they were already getting reports about Jesus (**John 7:32**).