

(45) Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what He did, believed in Him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let Him go one like this, everyone 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. 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.” He did not say this of his own accord, but, being the high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

(53) So, from that day on, they made plans to put Him to death. 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 His disciples.

(55) Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. 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?”

(57) Now the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest Him.

Think on these things:

- 1) With Lazarus raised right before their eyes (vs. 40-44), it is recorded that the astonished people had two reactions. Many believed and pondered Jesus! Others believed and did what (v.46)?

- 2) The Chief Priests and Pharisees immediately convened a council to consider Jesus’ ministry and many miraculous signs (v.47). They came up with three key concerns (v.48). What were they?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

- 3) Is there any evidence here that any of the Pharisees became believers in Jesus? _____

- 4) God established the priesthood in Exodus (read Exodus 40:12-16). Who was the first High Priest, and what do we know about all High Priests since that time (see also Numbers 25:10-13)? Read Exodus 4:14 to learn which tribe High Priests come from (and Moses and his brother belonged).

1st High Priest was: _____

All High Priests are: _____

Which tribe do High Priests come from? _____

5) Let's learn about this man Caiaphas mentioned in v.49:

Luke 3:2 - Who was High Priest when John the Baptist was ministering? _____

Matthew 26:3-5 – Where did Caiaphas live? _____

John 18:13, 19 & 24 (Acts 4:5-6) – Who was Caiaphas related to, and how? _____

6) Caiaphas blasted the council with, “You know nothing at all” (v.49)! He had a solution, and he had an insight that John records was actually a prophecy (v.51b, 53). What was the solution-prophecy? What would be the ultimate result?

Solution/Prophecy? _____

Ultimate result? _____

7) After raising Lazarus from the dead and this united opposition development in Jerusalem, Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the village of Ephraim at the west base of the dry, mountain range wilderness that runs down to the Dead Sea. This village is about 15-20 miles north of Jerusalem, depending on whether they used the main road or cut across the countryside.

Passover is the festival during which Jesus will finally die on the cross in Jerusalem. Skimming Exodus 12:1-13 and 13:1-6, what significance, symbolism or parallel do you see with Jesus dying at this time of the year? How long is Passover celebrated each year?

Passover significance (Ex. 12:1-13)? _____

Passover celebration (Ex. 13:1-6)? _____

8) What order was given to all the Jews in Jerusalem regarding Jesus (v.57)?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: