

## Thy Will Be Done (John 11:45-57)

### I. God Uses Rebellion to Accomplish His Purposes (45-53)

#### A. Some of the People Refuse to Believe (45-46)

##### 1. Many believed on him (45)

- a. They had seen him actually raise Lazarus from the dead
- b. There was absolutely no doubt that He had done the miracle
- c. The text says they believed because of what they saw him do

##### 2. Many refused to believe (46)

- a. They too saw the miracle and couldn't deny it
- b. Instead of believing they reported him to the Pharisees
- c. The strife between Jesus and the Pharisees was well known by now
- d. The point seems to be to "rat him out" and bring trouble down on him

#### B. The Pharisees Refuse the Authority of Christ (47-48)

##### 1. The Pharisees Recognize His Miracles (47)

- a. There was no more doubt about his works
- b. They knew He was a miracle worker
- c. They also knew he was doing the exact kind of works the Messiah was prophesied to do when he came
- d. They were in a better position than anyone else on earth to recognize the Messiah because of their extensive knowledge of the Scripture

##### 2. The Pharisees Feared Losing Their Authority (48)

- a. The Pharisees feared losing their people
  - i. They couldn't let him continue because they feared everyone believing in him
  - ii. It didn't matter to them if He truly was the Messiah, they wanted the people following them
  - iii. Today, people want rule over their own lives and hearts
  - iv. Today, people don't want others following Christ if they are not following him
- b. The Pharisees feared losing their position
  - i. They thought the people would uproot them from the Temple and cause commotion
  - ii. This type of insurrection is exactly what the Romans didn't allow in their provinces
  - iii. When disorder took place the Romans would come in and replace the leaders and governmental structure
  - iv. The Pharisees feared losing control

#### C. The Pharisees' Rebellion is Used by God (49-53)

1. Caiaphas Foretells Jesus' Necessary Death (49-52)
    - a. Caiaphas Unknowingly Prophesies God's Plan (49-50)
      - i. Caiaphas was high priest that year and God used him
      - ii. Caiaphas accuses them of Ignorance
      - iii. Caiaphas says its better for one man to die than the entire nation
      - iv. Caiaphas is speaking from his sinful desires, but God is using him for His good purposes
        - This DOES NOT relieve Caiaphas of the responsibility of his words and actions
        - This Does mean that God is truly in control
    - b. Caiaphas Foretells Jesus' Substitutionary Death (51)
      - i. Caiaphas wasn't speaking of his own accord
        - God was speaking truth through him
        - Though he didn't understand truly what he was saying
      - ii. Caiaphas prophesied as high priest that Jesus would die
    - c. Caiaphas Foretells Jesus' Death for the World (52)
      - i. Jesus would not die for the nation of Israel only
      - ii. Jesus would die to gather all God's children together in Him
  2. The Pharisees Plan Jesus' Death (53)
    - a. From that day they began making plans
    - b. Their plans were God's will to have Jesus die for the world
    - c. God is in control even though the evil men get together and plot against Him.
- II. God Sets the Stage For His Purposes (54-57)
- A. Jesus Remains Privately With His Disciples (54)
    1. Jesus no longer walked openly because they plotted against him
      - a. He stayed with the disciples
      - b. He stayed away from the city
    2. Jesus was able to focus on teaching his disciples
      - a. From chapter 13 on, Jesus teaches his disciples
      - b. It may seem like a bad thing that Jesus was forced into seclusion, but it provided the private time needed to build the foundation under his disciples
  - B. Jesus is Marked for Arrest and Death (55-57)
    1. Many people came to Jerusalem for Passover (55)
    2. The People were looking for Jesus at the feast (56)
      - a. Every Jewish Teacher would be there
      - b. They expected Jesus there

- c. They wanted to see the spectacle of his opposition to the Pharisees
  - d. They debated whether he would show up or not
- 3. The Authorities Planned to Arrest Him (57)
  - a. They had already put word out for his arrest
  - b. They had told people their plan
  - c. They were seeking information on his whereabouts

Even when it seems like the world is stacked against Jesus, the Father is moving all things for His purpose. The people and authorities in Jerusalem were acting under their own selfish hearts and desires, but God was behind the scenes setting the stage for the greatest act of love and justice ever conceived. When it seems like God is nowhere around, that's when He is most active in working all things for our good.