

**“ONE MAN MUST DIE”**  
**John 11:45-57**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

**Who runs your life? How do you make your decisions? Far too often we are determined to do things our way. When we do we *make a mess of our lives*, but God still accomplishes His plan.**

Why do many unbelievers refuse to be saved?—because Jesus will “upset their apple cart”—their lives would have to change. Why do many believers refuse to fully submit to His will for their lives?—because fully following Jesus would bring too many changes into their lifestyles. At any rate, these leaders concluded that Jesus must die—in order to save the nation! Interestingly enough, this was really God’s plan all along—that Jesus must die in order to save man. These wicked and rebellious leaders actually succeeded in accomplishing God’s will (Acts 4:27-28). **However, they ruined their lives and their nation!**

If you oppose Him and refuse to accept Him or fully follow His purpose for your life, He will still accomplish His plan, only you will be left “on the outside looking in” at the marvelous plan that God accomplishes.

**Yield your life fully to him—give up your plans and follow His plans for your life.**

In this passage we see various responses to Jesus: those who believed in Jesus, those who plotted against Jesus, those who learned from Jesus, and those who looked for Jesus.

**I. BELIEVING IN JESUS (45)**

**If you will look at life from the Lord’s perspective, He will change your life and mold it into something beautiful and meaningful that will count for eternity.**

**II. PLOTTING AGAINST JESUS (46-53)**

A. Some did not believe in Him, but took their concerns to the authorities whom they knew were opposed to Jesus

B. The opponents of our Lord, who greatly disliked each other, jointly met in a “Sanhedrin meeting”—Chief priests and Pharisees

1. The dilemma of the Pharisees—“What are we doing?” [Nothing much!]
2. The acknowledgment of Jesus’ many signs—*yet there is no effort to unpack the meaning and significance of these signs—only the problem that results.*
3. “Hands off” policy (cf. Acts 5—Gamaliel’s advice) could be disastrous
  - a. “All men will believe on Him”
  - b. The Romans will put a stop to such a “messianic movement.”  
At bottom what they were really concerned about was the loss of their **privileged positions, power, and financial security.**
4. Caiaphas’ solution (49-50)

- a. Notice his rudeness “You don’t know anything!”
- b. You can’t “figure it out (v. 50).
- c. It is to your advantage that one *man* die instead of the “people” so that the entire “nation” does not perish.

**Can you see that when we selfishly pursue our own ends, we get neither our ends nor the blessing of God upon our lives!**

- d. From that day they actively planned to kill Jesus (53).

#### C. God’s Providential Overruling of Man’s Wicked Intentions (51-52)

- 1. He spoke better than he realized (“not out of himself”).
- 2. Traditionally, the high priest was considered a prophet. Without becoming aware of it, the villain had become the prophet.
- 3. That fateful, significant year Caiaphas served as high priest and “prophesied that Jesus was going to “die for the nation.”
  - a. Jesus died to save Jews (v. 51)
  - b. Jesus died to save Gentiles (52)
- 4. Jesus would form His people—called here “the children of God.” He would “gather them together” regardless of their background (Cf. Jn. 10:16—“other sheep”).
- 5. The fall and sin had caused a scattering; Jesus would do a gathering.

#### III. LEARNING FROM JESUS (54)

- A. Jesus didn’t continue to carry on His public ministry among the Jews (“walk among”).
- B. He sought seclusion at a place known as Ephraim.
- C. He was spending time with His disciples—those who were responsive and needed to become prepared for what lay ahead.

#### IV. LOOKING FOR JESUS (55-57)

- A. Out of Curiosity (55-56)
  - 1. Passover pilgrims from the countryside arriving early for purification.
  - 2. They were anxiously looking for Jesus.
  - 3. Due to the circumstances, they doubted that Jesus would come.
  - 4. There were standing “orders” for Jesus’ arrest.

#### CONCLUSION

Yes, one Man did die for the “nation”—and He has brought together “the children of God” from both the nation of Israel and from the Gentiles. He has made them both into one new man (Eph. 2:13-14).

Christ’s enemies thought that they were getting rid of a problem by getting rid of Jesus. They planned to save their own necks and their positions of influence. They wanted to preserve their land and their temple. **By doing things their way, they lost it all—including their souls!**

The Lord did His work—but at their expense! They did not frustrate His plan.

The same is true for you and me. He will do His work—but don’t let it be at your expense! Get on His side and yield your life to Him.