

# Easter (Part 1) – 4/3/22

Pastor Rick: “The Cost of Resisting Jesus!”

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Question of the week: “Is Monical’s real pizza?!?!”

*Read John 11:45-53*

We Christians often resist the God we say we follow!

In the weeks leading up to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion there were 3 characters whose lives intersected Jesus' life. Each of them had very specific agendas.

There is a little bit of them in all of us.

Today’s character: Caiaphas

The problem with Jesus was the crowds.

Jesus was extraordinarily critical of the religious leaders.

It was an act of compassion!

This is when the religious leaders and Caiaphas in particular, realized that their strategy was failing.

*John 11:47a "Then the chief priest and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin."*

*John 11:47b-48*

They knew that to resist Jesus was to resist God.

Talk about a time you saw a Christian resisting God. Did that person’s behavior influence your view of God? If so, how?

To embrace Jesus as who Jesus claimed to be, meant they would have to “let go” of something that was extraordinarily important to them: Their power, their influence, and their wealth.

When you decide to follow Jesus, it's going cost you something!

Talk about a time when saying yes to God would have cost you something. What did you do? What happened?

What do we do with Jesus?

*John 11:49-50*

*John 10:17-18*

Years later Caiaphas lost his place.

Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, became a footnote in the story of Jesus!

Now, what does that have to do with you and me?

Everything—because there is a little Caiaphas in all of us, there's a little Caiaphas in you that says, "Preserve at all costs."

Saying yes to God will cost you something, saying no will always cost you more!

What have you put in the place of God in your life? What is it that you think that you must preserve at all cost?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time you saw a Christian resisting God. Did that person's behavior influence your view of God? If so, how?
2. When did saying yes to God cost you something? What did you do? What happened?
3. What have you put in the place of God in your life? What is it that you think that you must preserve at all cost?
4. What is one practical step you can take this week to follow God more fully?