

John 11:47-57 | Caiaphas' Conspiracy to kill Christ

Matt. 13:47-52 The Parable of the Dragnet

Pastoral Prayer.

Responsive Reading.

John 11:47-57 | Caiaphas' Conspiracy to kill Christ

Intro.

The weight of these passages should have begun to bear on your conscience.

I meditate constantly on these passages and the weight that the truth of these passages bears results in a heavy disposition.

You cannot understand the weight of these Scripture and walk away with the notions of frivolous religion.

In modern religion, you get a lot of **positive psychology**, make people feel good about themselves. You get a lot of self-focus. Ego-stroking. Image-preservation. Shallow, Devotional take-aways.

The trouble with this is that it might fool some people some of the time, but it will never fool all of the people all of the time. Eventually, people will realize

Martin Luther was once asked by a man that attends his preaching 'Why do you just keep preaching the gospel week after week?' Luther responded 'Because you forget it every week!'

Luther went on to state 'that if you claim to be preaching about Christ, but do not preach Christ where the evil is the darkness and the fires of this world burn the hottest, then in reality you are acutally not preaching Christ at all. You are just compromising.'

In other words, Christianity is always relevant because it should always be addressing what is most relevant in current events.

The Gospel and Theology overlap into all life sectors. Everything

You know this compromised style of church life because it talks about man-centered things. Get the understanding of time management, burn-out rate, perception-managagement- 'I hope

so-in-so didn't misunderstand me. Things become oriented around image, self-image. Jockeying for space and image and popularity.

This ends up becoming what people's church life and church experience ends up becoming defined by.

BUT, if You look at these passage you do not get any of that concern by meditating on the truth of these passages.

If you mediate on the truth of this passage, you will not walk away with the modern, managerial, corporate, self-image-model of church.

You get life transforming, life altering Truth. I live constantly in the wake of these truths and it becomes so easy to discern between truth and error/compromise.

The truth of this passage, The truth that Jesus, a good man, is about to be killed, by the conspiracy of a bunch of self-righteous, evil men.

The Truth of these passages is nothing short of disturbing.

Tomorrow much of the world celebrates Halloween. A day where people engage in any number of evil ideals.

There has been just in the past few years an increasing emphasis around witchcraft. Even in this town, there are women who will dress up as witches and claim that this is some kind of cute, benign activity.

Anytime there are people that whether in seriousness or jest play the role of a witch, you can be certain that Satan takes you serious at that.

The effects of witchcraft, the occult, and just as impactful but seemingly more benign, pagan practices, are all around us. They are evil!

Well, how's this for evil; An all-loving, all-merciful God, sends His all-loving, all-merciful Son to the world. His Son, whom loves and loves to the extent to where He raises a dead man back to life, is now being conspired against to be killed for His loving actions.

How's that for evil?!

Caiaphas is evil. The Sanhedrin is evil and the reality is, it is not a long bridge to gap the annals of time between then and now.

Many of the evils in that age are reflect of the same nature in our age today.

We live in an age today where conspiracies abound. Our age of **massive information** has proven the ability to give people **massive disinformation**.

With everything that we are told in the public light there is the **resulting private questioning**. Is this real? Is this true? Can this source be trusted?

The skepticism that is developed among common people has become normal in our life.

Lying and propagating false information has become so routine that it is even expected. People will lie with such regularity that it has become dismissed nonchalantly.

Lying and spreading false information has become so routine that it has even been made out to be comical in numerous satirical campaigns against the government, big business, and media outlets.

We now live in a world, where the ideas of conspiracy theories in our reporting is not considered conspiracy but instead, jokingly embraced, as the current reality.

People will respond with statements like, 'You can't make this stuff up!' or 'This is unbelievable' or 'You'll never believe this..' – those types of responses to the preposterous events of our age have become commonplace.

The Babylon Bee has become a widely distributed satirical news outlet playing on the plight of much of the dishonesty in public reporting today.

The distrust around public information has grown to an extent that it has required traditional news outlets to create a variety of splinter cell news outlets that provide information to people, ultimately with the purpose of telling those people what they want to hear and what they have already concluded that they want to believe.

2 Tim. 4:3 'the time will come when they/the people will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, they shall heap to themselves teachers in accordance with their own lusts.'

These types of people are most likely not Christian or are **nominal Christians at best**. People who want to be identified as OR affiliated with the idea of being a Christian, but only to the extent that it fulfills their private agenda.

Ultimately fulfilling their **pre-determined confirmation bias** with regard to the specified topic they might be interested in at that particular time.

Are you interested this evening in the war in Ukraine? Well, then spend, however long your attention span allows, to attend your mind to the media outlet that you select and then have your mind shaped by the way in which that outlet chooses to shade the information. **And then**

at the end, conclude that you are an expert on the topic and post your opinion about it for everyone to read.

People become so entrenched in these kinds of things, that they are easily manipulated by their preconceived bias with regard to whatever the topic might be.

I saw a humorous response to this a few years back during the wake of a different European conflict. That in response to Russian invading Georgia, there had been a large increase sells of ammunition at Walmart's in Alabama, as a result of Russian invading Georgia. Obviously, highlighting how many people have little scope of understanding in respect of some of the events that they speak confidently about. .

Yet the silliness of people's confirmation biases, **does not reduce the impact of such sinister** conspiracies that we see in the text of Scripture today.

Is. 8:12 'Do not call conspiracy what these people call conspiracy and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread of it.'

Many people in Israel believed that Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were false prophets, servants of the enemy, because of their dogmatic stance against foreign powers and encouraging the nation of Israel to have complete alliance and dependence on God Alone.

It became a problem for the Israelites that lived in rebellion. It became a conspiracy among them.

Jer. 11:9 'Again the LORD said to me, "A conspiracy exists among the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of their ancestors who refused to **hear My words.**"'

Now when God's word isn't preached, it isn't heard. **But what was the conspiracy?**

The conspiracy that both Isaiah and Jeremiah are referring to IS the deliberate psychology attempts to overcome God's working that was suppose to bring them to repentance.

These people are developing theories, and conspiracies, and using human cunning and cleverness to justify their lack of agreement with God. **They rebell.**

These people are building alliances. Their alliances is their religion. Their allies are their gods.

These people are determined that they will not trust in God, instead, they want an association of people that have mutual benefit and mutual affinity for the same self-interests.

These people are gathering themselves together in social circles, and they think because of the abundance of their group think, it confirms their pre-coordinated agenda.

God sees right through their conspiring!

In this OT setting, the Israelites have chosen to align themselves with Egypt and the Chaldeans. **In this NT setting**, a contingent of Jews have left the tomb to go tell the Sanhedrin. The combined leadership structure of the Sadducees and Pharisees are the ones that convene a council.

God's will is that they would be humbled, they will not be humbled because they are full of pride.

'God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.' 1 Pet. 5

People do not like to be humbled because that would require them to be wrong. And for a person to be wrong would require for them to get over their selfish tendencies.

What is it that causes men to create conspiracies against the will of God?

In our age, the media personality, Alex Jones of InfoWars, might be the **single largest source** of conspiracy ideology in our age.

Jones' reporting of his perspective on global conspiracies has always served to be bombastic, divisive, and routinely resulting in lawsuits.

In 2017, Chobani Yogurt, sued Jones over a defamation lawsuit claiming that Jones has defamed them with his conspiracy that Chobani yogurt was a pass-through organization for illegal immigration with had served to spread tuberculosis throughout American.

Jones has been **notorious for his coverage of false flag attacks** on American soil. Making the claim that global elites have a pre-coordinated agenda to destroy life on earth, destroy the family, and erode Christian values in American by implementing an elaborate plan of psychologocial warfare over the whole country.

And as we see the regular push for abortion, the cover-up of deaths as a result of the mass produced COVID-vaccine, and the prolific rates of divorce and corruption of the office of marriage – it becomes hard to disagree with his conclusion.

If you were to just disregard Jones' blatant vulgarity and irrelevance and merely consider the merits of the information, it does put you in a position to where you should consider some of the things being said.

Yet, some of his unchecked conclusions do go too far.

Recently, Jones was given a verdict was made in a court case that Jones would be required to pay \$1 billion dollars to the families of Sandy Hook Elementary school, where Jones had claimed that the school shooting their was a hoax, coordinated by gov't/NGO crisis actors in an attempt to build esteem around gun-control laws.

The conspiracies that Jones and many others like him espouse can be **seen as entertainment by some**, enlightening by others, but most assuredly, alarming by all.

The things that Jones proposes are staggering. Jones is clearly an irreverent personality, not an example to follow or model for Christ-like behavior.

And though his behavior isn't to be condoned, the matters that he reports on are so demonstrative you have to find yourself on one of two-sides.

Most people would classify Jones as a crazy man, BUT the trouble is, that people of less slanted personality, have often covered similar topics with similar conclusions.

For example, the investigative journalist, Annie Jacobson, has written numerous articles and books on similar topics, such as, The Pentagon's involvement in establishing the Internet, the role of the JASON scientist and DARPA's involvement through TV and media reporting for shaping the minds of Americans through things like pop-culture music and modern TV sitcoms.

You do have to admit, it is a little interesting that a popular song like **Lady Gaga's 'Baby I was born this way'** becomes one of America's most popular songs, suggesting the open acceptance of transgenderism just years before their becomes a ground swell of movement around the open acceptance of transgenderism.

It's also ironic that despite human behavior largely remaining the same for all of world history, that it hasn't been until recently that there have been an **up-surge of massive public shootings**.

Of course, Alex Jones claims the majority of these shootings are staged, but whether they are staged or whether they are not staged, we do know that in the minds of many, they have happened and the resulting suggestion of the fact that they have happened is that people should not own guns.

What's also ironic about it, is that in the wake of such a drastic concern around black lives, is the highly popular rap music oriented around the black community, that so often brandishes and celebrates the usage of firearms.

Why is it that the suggested response to something like these aberrant behaviors is not parental discipline? Why is it not suggested that people who commit crimes be punished harsher?

Is there a conspiracy among us?

Why instead is it suggested that people who have never committed such crimes be obligated to turn in weapons that they have never done anything illegal with those weapons?

Why is it that there is this constant suggestion that when criminals conduct criminal activity, it is the good people that should have restrictions placed upon their life?

I've never understood why its considered greedy for a good person to keep their money, but its not considered greedy for a person who didn't work for that money to take it.

Why is it that we now live in a society where if a good person does a good thing they often get considered to be a bad person?

For example, **in this passage**, a good person, Jesus Christ, does a good thing, raises a dead man back to life, yet, nobody shows appreciation for it, and instead, establishes a way to kill Him over the situation.

In our age today, you are less likely to succeed if you are honesty.

It is almost assumed that if you have risen through the ranks of business or politics, then you have done so by jettisoning traditional values and selling your soul.

Another example of this irony, at least from my perspective, when I was a child, I was always told to hold a door open for a lady. That you were to treat women with respect and to hold women in high esteem. Yet often today, I've seen this first hand, that women who will be offended if you were to hold the door open for them.

Or how about this; a few months ago we were getting ice cream for our kids in the summer. And there was a group of teenagers in front of us. I told the man ringing up their bill that I would pay for their ice cream and attempted to do this in a way to where it would be recognized but that just to do something nice for these kids.

When one of the kids found out that I paid for their ice cream, the confusion that struck them was so interesting to watch. It was obvious that these **entitled brats** had no ability to demonstrate gratitude. The young adult had no ability to respond thankfully, it never even crossed their mind to say 'Thank you' – instead they looked at me like I was crazy and just walked off. Now if you pay for these ungrateful people's ice cream you've done them a wrong, but if you don't pay off their student loan debt, then you've also done them a wrong.

The point that I'm highlighting here is that we have a conspiracy in our own age, it is a **perpetual Catch-22 of our society** is astounding.

You might wonder how is this the case, but the Bible has already told us how this would come about

2 Tim. 3:1 'in the last days...men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.'

Caiaphas is the leader of **these types of men**. All people need a leader. All organizations, all ideological fronts need a leader.

Caiaphas is the leader of these types of people. Caiaphas is the leader of these **arrogant people**.

Jesus just raised Lazarus from the dead. These people who witnessed this **do not say thank you**. These people do not worship Jesus.

Some believe. BUT, the pre-demonance of the story is that a large enough contingent go to persuade the Sanhedrin to kill Jesus for performing a Divine miracle.

The people, just like people today, **are ungrateful**. They won't even say thank you or recognize that you have helped them. They are just selfish. Self-focused. They are arrogant.

They have fallen from a position of godliness because of self-pride.

Whether we want to conclude today, that many of these modern conspiracies exist, what we cannot deny is that **these types of people do exist**.

Conspiracies require 3 things; A political leader, a contingency of victims, and a common lie they all accept and promote.

The Conspiracy. The Reaction. The Reality. The Result.

Conspiracies in the Bible

I. Therefore. The Conspiracy.

v. 47-53 'Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, 'What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.' But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order the He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So that day on they planned together to kill Him."

The Conspiracy.

The Conspiracy's central problem is the identity of Jesus. Who Jesus is, IS the central problem.

Jesus is a problem to the psyche of people who are not right with Him.

The character, the work, and the word about Jesus is the central problem.

If Jesus had just kept doing carpentry work in Galilee we wouldn't have a problem here.

There problem is ultimately that people would believe in Him- **WHY is that a problem?**

Honesty men are always a problem for dishonest men. Good men are always problematic to bad men. Law-abiding citizens are always at odds with criminals.

These people who conspire against Christ are spiritual criminals.

The revelation of Jesus' character has presented a problem for the religious elite and that problem must be addressed.

You know, there are a **number of ways to handle a problem**. Certainly one-size doesn't fit all when it comes to solving a problem of this magnitude. Covering up the message and identity of Jesus.

In order to handle a problem like this, a man capable of raising someone from the dead, a problem of this magnitude is going to need numerous solutions.

Satan will have to devise more than just one way to address this. **BUT for now, 'one man dying for the nation' will suffice.**

Formalized false religion will serve as a quality tool to deceive some.

Self-directed religion, one where a person serves as their own god, calling their own shots, they determine what is right and what is wrong. That will serve to deceive a large contingent of independents.

Heindism and Anti-law rhetoric, that will service most pagans, and that will do a great deal of psychological good for people that hate God's law. For those who love things like free-sex, and witchcraft, and oppose the time-honored restrictions of marriage, that type of religious system serves them well.

Those should serve as good follow-on conspiracies to cover up Christ.

The solution most certainly cannot be to worship Jesus Christ.

Satan will need more than just one way to address the growing problem of the story of Jesus and His Divine nature. BUT, in the near term it will suffice that **'one man die for the nation,'** as Caiaphis puts it.

The conspiracy to kill Jesus Christ is the most notorious conspiracy in all of world history.

The greatest lies have to be told to cover up the greatest truths.

If Jesus Christ has the power over life and death, well that kind of makes all other inventions in society meaningless.

It becomes challenging to take advantage of people and to make money off people that are satisfied in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

It becomes problematic when a person cannot be mentally enslaved to pop-cultural music and media jargon, because their mind is instead engaged in constant prayer.

Corporations and governments stand to lose a lot of control AND that is exactly the logic of Caiaphas conspiracy.

Caiaphas prophecies. False prophets do speak prophecy.

Caiaphas states v. 50 'You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.'

How ironic and how foolish, at the same time!

Caiaphas is a Sadducee. They were often barbaric in their actions.

Jesus will die for the nation, Jesus will die according to prophecy, but He will not perish, but will live. And lives today.

Caiaphas prophecies unbeknownst to himself. True prophets are not the only people that God speaks through. Caiaphas is a false prophet.

1 John 4:1 'Beloved do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God'

On occasion, God speaks through false prophets as well. God uses false prophets to exercise His judgements, just as easily as He uses true prophets.

The interesting thing has always been that **the populace loves the false prophets and hates the true prophets.**

Jesus' pronounces Woe upon these people.

God can use key leaders to speak His word and it might even use it as a means of judgement.

Let me give you an example. Turn to Isaiah 9.

On Sept. 11th attacks in 2001, on Sept. 12th, 2001, Sen. Jonathan Edwards stands to read a message to the nation and reads Isaiah 9:10.

As the dust cloud of rubble was still accumulating over ground zero, Edwards would not have known that a stand alone sycamore tree and been blown over adjacent to the buildings falling. Nor would Edwards have known that in the coming years a cedar tree would be planted in that location to memorialize the event.

One day latter, on Sept. 12, 2001 The Senate Majority Leader, Dem. Tom Daschle, stood before the House of Representatives and gave a message to direct the action the entire nation.

He read over the direction of our government that we would give a response to this attack likened to the Israelites response in Isaiah 9:10.

That prophecy reads

Is. 9:10 'The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.'

The unfortunate thing about that prophetic response from Israel was not a blessing from God but instead a demonstration of their lack of repentance and sheer arrogance before God.

Lowliness is always the proper response to God. Humility is always the proper response to God.

Pride and arrogance are always improper. The Israelites despite God's intentions of humbling them in their sin, was not humility, but instead was arrogance.

Hewn stone and cedar are examples of not building materials that are less than but more than. **Hewn stone and cedar are examples** of their materialistic efforts to make matters better, INSTEAD of seeking forgiveness and humility to God.

What is the easiest way to demonstrate humility? It is the recognize when you are in the wrong.

What is another easy way to demonstrate humility and meekness? It is not take full advantage of what you have the ability to take advantage over. When you have the ability to crush someone, to rub it in their face, to demonstrate their infractions; to give mercy instead.

Isaiah 9:8-9 'The Lord sends a message against Jacob, and it falls on Israel. And all the people know it, That is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, asserting pride and in arrogance of heart'

Now you see here in this passage that Jesus retreats to Ephraim. We know in John 4 that Jesus had a significant ministry in Samaria.

Does it seem like anything has changed? No. Why not?

v. 50 **'it is expedient'** is what Caiaphas says— Well, in one respect, yes it is expedient that God has sent His Son to be the **substitutionary sacrifice** for our sins. BUT, on the other hand it is not expedient at all to those who misrepresent their positions on Christ.

Caiaphas doesn't mean that it is expedient that we would trust Christ for salvation. Caiaphas doesn't mean this is expedient so that he and others can be freed from religious oppression. Caiaphas doesn't mean this in light of freedom from Divine Judgement and entrance into Divine Goodness.

Caiaphas means this as a means of deception and self-preservation.

Unfortunately for Caiaphas, his very plans go awry as the temple is destroyed in AD 70.

Not the first conspiracy in the Bible, nor the last, nor is it the last conspiracy against Christians in world history.

The Conspiracy against Paul. Paul before this Sanhedrin.

Acts 22:1-2 'Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer you.' And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet' – they realized they are barking up the wrong tree. They picked a fight with the wrong guy.

These people were so foolish they didn't even realize Paul's background.

And that is the case with generations who do not study history. One generation will work to secure a foothold in history and the next will lose it because they never understood what it took to achieve it.

Paul defending his position before the Council/Sanhedrin. – Watch the boldness of Paul.

Acts 23:1-11 'Paul, **looking intently** at the Council, said, Brethren, I have lived my life with a **perfectly good conscience** before God up to this day.' The high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, 'God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?'

But the bystanders said, 'Do you revile God's high priest?' And Paul said, 'I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, **'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'** (It's possible that Paul legitimately didn't recognize the priest because of his eye sight. BUT, The irony that Paul is using before them is hilarious, but Paul is speaking what is true. Who is the High Priest of the people? Jesus Christ. Who do they speak evil of? Jesus Christ.)

A Conspiracy to Kill Paul. –

Acts 23:12 'When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty who formed this plot. They came to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have bound ourselves under a solemn oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul. **Now therefore,** you and the Council notify the commander to bring him down to you, as though you were going

to determine his case by a more thorough investigation; and we for our part are ready to slay him before he comes near the place.'

Notice that they verdict was already settled in the private conspiracy. Notice that the conspiracy to kill Christ was already concluded, they opportunity had just not presented itself yet.

That's how conspiracies work.

The lie has already been established and coordinated before it is ever brought to public light.

Conspiracies abound against God's people in the bible. There are numerous conspiracies in the OT. and This one of Jeuss and that one of Paul are two of the most prominent in the NT.

II. Therefore. The Reaction.

v. 54 'Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples.'

Recall – Ephraim is one of the locations mentioned in Isaiah 9. It was a tribe in Israel, one of Josphe's son.

The Reaction. Jesus' reaction to the conspiracy is to hide Himself until the time of the Passover.

My time and My hour –

'My time' – John 7:6 'My time has not yet come'

'My hour' – John 2:4 'My hour has not yet come'

John 7:30 'his hour has not yet come'

John 8:20 'He taught in the temple; but no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come'

John 12:23 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified

John 12:27 'Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?

But for this purpose I have come to this hour.

John 16:4 'the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.'

There is a conspiracy in the world that is against Christians. The whole system of the world is against Christians.

Therefore, it is important to remain low.

There will be no opportunity to receive glory in this life. The glory for the Christian life is in the next life.

In this life, we give God glory, in the next life, we live in His glory.

But the conspiracy of this world is that all the glory goes to men. That's how Satan traps people. Satan traps people in organizations that orient themselves around their own glory.

Jesus foretells of His Death. Jesus is not unaware of their conspiracy.

John 16:16 'a little while, and you will no longer see Me'

John 16:17 the disciples wonder 'a little while and you will not see Me'

John 16:19 Jesus says are you deliberating about this? A little while and you will no longer see Me?'

John 16:20 'Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.

John 16:21 'Whenever a woman is in labor she is in pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.'

Jesus compares the grief and pain He experiences on the cross, and the grief and pain we experience in this conspiracy-laden world, to the same things as being born into another life.

Notice that Jesus comes to the same city, '**called Ephraim**' from the same referenced city of prophecy in Isaiah 9.

But moreover, the reality is that Jesus leaves. Jesus is not present with these people any longer.

They have ran Him off. That's one way to see it. They reject Him, He leaves.

But here's another way to see it too, **God abandons those who continue in Idolatry.**

Those who would desire the Council of Men. Those who would prefer the Conspiracy of Politics.

God will turn them over to their own devices. And the common grace that was once common among them is lost.

I've seen it. Those who reject God. Reject the messengers of God. They get what they want.

Matt. 10:41 'He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.'

The effect of Christian ministry is that it starts with God, it persists in Christ, and God uses men and women that continue in His Spirit.

The Reality.

If all of this serves to frustrate you and make you indignant to the current world environment, then I would tell you, you're starting to gain the proper perspective.

You're starting to see why **'Jesus weeps.'**

'To live is Christ and to die is gain.'

IV. Now the result. v.55-57 'Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves. So they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, 'What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?' Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him.'

The Result. The Result is that the death of Jesus is imminent.

The time for Jesus to die for the cause of salvation is fast approaching.

This is the third Passover that is approaching in the timeframe of John's Gospel. This third Passover is the final Passover. The permanent passover.

The conspiracy that they conspiracy against Christ will become the needed tool to send Christ to the cross.

The result of this conspiracy is that Jesus withdraws to this ancient town of Israel, Ephraim.

Conclusion.

Small Group Questions

1. How does conspiracies and confirmation bias play a part in our understanding of Christianity and our participation in it?
2. Do we ever project our own conspiracy and 'confirmation bias' onto a situation? Do we ever project a lack of trusting God, a lack of truth, because of a series of past events that have happened to us?
3. This conspiracy to kill Jesus is a prophetic utterance from Caiaphas, 'it is expedient that one man die for the nation,' – God can speak His judgments through people just as He can speak His blessings through people. How can we keep our attention peeked to see God continue to speak and work in our lives today? Remember, what God would do today is always congruent with who He is and what He has said from the Bible.
4. 'From that day on they planned to kill Him' – How is it possible that they people could think they are doing what is right by killing an innocent man?

Email

John 11:47-57 | Caiaphas' Conspiracy to kill Christ 'The head priest, Caiaphas, develops a conspiracy among the Sanhedrin and the unbelieving Jews to kill Jesus. Why would a large contingent of the Jews believe it would be a good thing to kill Jesus? The same way the unrepentant Jews from the OT killed the prophets sent by God is the same manner in which they seek to kill the Son of God in this setting.'