

# Jesus, the “I AM”

JOHN 11:45-57

**Response after Lazarus was raised – [see context John 11:1-44]**

*John 11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,<sup>46</sup> but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.*

**Heartfelt search – What are we accomplishing?**

*47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.”<sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”*

**A human or political solution – Atonement**

*49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.<sup>50</sup> 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.”*

**Double-fulfillment prophecy – Human solution was GOD’s means of Salvation**

*51 He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,<sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.<sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.*

**Jesus withdrew while the seekers were searching – seekers are searching still**

*54 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 the disciples.<sup>55</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.<sup>56</sup> They were looking for<sup>57</sup> 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?”*

**The Politically powerful sought to eliminate what threatened them –**

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

**What are we going to do about it?**

**Welcome:** Blessings on you and welcome to Grace

Church. What follows is a guide to seek to apply this abstract passage to our everyday lives. You can do this personally, as a family, or in a small group community.

Thinking through the application and seeking to live it out with other Christians is what ultimately leads to transformation of not only your life, but the lives of those around you and as people are gripped by the gospel, this transforms our culture as well.



**Application in Community:** Perhaps you have noticed the divide in our country over the past few years and perhaps, therefore, you are bothered in your soul. What are we to do about it? Seek a human solution? Seek a political solution?

As you read through at today’s scripture passage (John 11:45-57), you will notice this is a trial of the politically powerful to bring charges against and arrest someone who was a threat to the politically elite. And those bringing the charges were so blinded by their shared lust for power that they were blinded to the facts before them that a man performed a miracle. They should have been asking, “What does the resurrection of Lazarus mean and how should this change how I view Jesus? (John 11:40-44) Instead they thought, “I don’t care if a miracle happened, we are in power here. What in the world should we do to maintain power?” And so they chose to eliminate Jesus through arrest and crucifixion.

**So What?** Great question...let’s explore this:

1. Related to where America is headed: what’s the solution?
2. Read John 11:45-48 – have you ever asked, “What are we accomplishing?” (As an individual? Family? Small Group? Church? American Christians?)
3. Read John 11:49-53 – the High Priest Caiaphas made political plans. Little did he realize GOD spoke through him to prophesy the Gospel (Christ Crucified for forgiveness of your sins). Have you ever experienced making human plans and GOD redirects them to bring about His plans? Explain.
4. The ultimate question – WHAT are we accomplishing? Are you making human plans? Or soul searching for spiritual renewal in Jesus?

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