

“Death to the ‘Lord of Life!’”

John 11:45-57

Dr. Cliff McManis

March 8, 2009

After three years of preaching the good news, healing the sick, teaching His disciples, proclaiming truth, exposing error and serving sinners, Jesus' ministry is about to reach a climax. The Jewish leaders of Jerusalem plan to arrest and kill Him. Little do they realize, God already planned to do so in eternity past.

1. The convening council—the Sanhedrin (45-48)

⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

⁴⁷Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸"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."

2. The conniving Caiaphas—the High Priest (49-53)

⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all, ⁵⁰nor 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.'

⁵¹Now 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, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they planned together to kill Him."

3. The cautious Christ—the plan of God (54-57)

⁵⁴Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly 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.... ⁵⁶So 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?'

⁵⁷Now 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."