

John 11:47

(1)

When Lazarus was dead and buried, many Jews saw him raised to life and come out of his tomb at the command of Jesus. Some of these Jews went to tell the religious rulers in Jerusalem what Jesus had done.

Think about [John 11:47-48](#).

So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. 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."

- When these Jewish religious rulers heard what Jesus had done, what were they concerned about?
- If you had been there and were told what Jesus had done, what would you be concerned about?
- What did the Jewish religious rulers fear?

Note: At the time of Jesus, the nation of the Jews was under the power and control of the Roman emperor. The only privileges the Jews had were the ones granted to them by the Roman government.

- Why would the Roman government care if the Jews believed Jesus was the Messiah?

Consider: [Acts 17: 6-7](#) ... *they (the Jews) dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ... and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."*

Consider: [John 19:12-15](#) *Pilate sought to release him (Jesus), but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ... They cried out, "Away with him, ... crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."*

(2)

Think about [John 11:49-52](#).

But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them (the Jewish council), "You know nothing at all. 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." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

- What title did Caiaphas have?
- What did God want his priests to be like?

Consider: [Malachi 2:4-7](#) ... *I (God) have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi (the head of the family of priests) may stand, says the LORD of hosts. My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.*

- What was Caiaphas's plan to stop Jesus from performing miracles that proved he is the Messiah? What was Caiaphas's reasoning? (See John 11:49-52 quoted above.)
- Why did Caiaphas decree this plan? (See John 11:49-52 quoted above.)

Consider: [Acts 2:22-23](#) (Peter said) *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men."*

- What does the death of Jesus accomplish? (See John 11:49-52 quoted above.)

Consider: [Revelation 5:9](#) *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You (the Lamb) to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased [people] for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation."*

(3)

Think about [John 11:53-57](#).

So from that day on they (the Jewish council) made plans to put him (Jesus) to death. ... 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 happened as a result of the high priest's prophecy?
-