

“The Gospel of John: The Prophetic Killer”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

John 11:46-57

“But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. 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 that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.**

So, from that day on, they planned together to kill Him. 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.

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.”

Last Week

Lazarus is raised from the dead

Reaction of the Jews -> many were coming to Jesus afterward

John 11:45

“Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.”

This Week

The reaction of Jewish leaders

Final decision about Jesus’s fate

It’s an opportunity to look at Jesus for who He is

Decide whether you are with Him or against Him

It’s a question we all must answer here on Earth – after physical death, you no longer have that option

Hebrews 9:27

“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment”

There is no way station or purgatory available to you, much to the chagrin of my Catholic friends

Considering Jesus

John 11:46-47

“But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. Therefore, the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council and were saying, “**What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.**”

Some of those Jews who were attending Martha and Mary told the story to the Pharisees

“You won’t believe what WE just saw!”

“Jesus raised a dude from the dead!!!”

The Pharisees convene the Sanhedrin -> the council of leaders of Jerusalem -> including the priests

You have a group of business leaders, political leaders, and religious leaders that meet together

How many events in our times would bring these types of groups together?

The Pope at the White House long with the President’s team of economic advisers, perhaps?

“**What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.**”

The topic of discussion: Jesus -> “What are WE going to do about this guy?”

This guy is dangerous!

He’s upsetting the world as we know it!

Jesus has the tendency to do that, doesn’t He?

When He comes into your life, status quo is no longer -> things are going to change

Your desires are going to change

Your friends are going to change

Your understanding of family may change

Matthew 10:34-36

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.”

Jesus is not going to be a uniting force for the world -> He is a dividing force

You may lose family members over Jesus

Jesus is clear about this, isn’t He?

Luke 11:23

“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”

You are either with Him or against Him

You work for Him or against Him

It's that simple -> **Do you work for Jesus?**

The Apostle Paul was initially against Him:

Acts 9:1-5

“Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**” And he said, “**Who are You, Lord?**” And He said, “**I am Jesus whom you are persecuting**”

But Paul was rescued by faith in Jesus

Philippians 3:4-6

“If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, **I far more**: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; **as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.**”

Paul was against Jesus and then found blameless and worked FOR Jesus!

Paul had to deal with Jesus

We have to deal with Jesus

The Pharisees had to deal with Jesus

“**What do we do with Jesus**” the entire council was saying

“**He is doing all of these miracles**” -> We HAVE to have a position on Jesus!

Jesus is either a stumbling stone or the cornerstone:

Jesus, The Stumbling Stone

John 11:48

“**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.**”

The council reveals what is most important to them: **retaining their public standing**

If we don't do something, “all men will believe in Him”

What will that do to us?

“**...the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation**”

If we cannot keep order in Jerusalem, they are going to come and remove us from leadership!

How many of you have heard someone say, "I would come to Jesus...but"

What is said after the "but" in those lines?

I would but, I would have to give up my free Sunday mornings, or my cigarettes or weed or something

I would but, I would have to give up my family -> my parents won't like it -> my kids would hate me...

Matthew 10:37-39 (continuing the passage from earlier)

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

Jesus is clear that placing anything in the way of a relationship with Him shows no devotion to Him

The adversary will use anyone that is on his team to distract you from what God wants you to do!

Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest, is on Satan's team

Still, God can use him for His purposes:

John 11:49-50

"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.**"

Caiaphas prophesies about what Jesus would do

Jesus was the "**one man to die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish**"

Caiaphas sentences Jesus to death

He is the prophetic killer

Caiaphas and the other leaders of Israel stumble over Christ

Instead of recognizing Him as Lord while they are on the Earth, they fall headway over the Cornerstone:

Psalm 118:21-24

"I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation. **The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.** This is the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Jesus quoted this Psalm:

Matthew 21:42-46

"Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, **THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone**; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'? "Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people,

producing the fruit of it. "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

45When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, **they understood that He was speaking about them.** When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet."

Peter quoted the Psalm before the council in His defense after healing a man and facing the council:

Acts 4:10-12

"Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health. "**He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.** "And **there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."**

If you're counting on anything else for your trip to Heaven, you better rethink that strategy – Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 8:14

"**He will be as a sanctuary**, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. To both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem"

Paul wrote the same to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

"For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block** and to Gentiles foolishness, **but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**"

Peter wrote about it:

1 Peter 2:4-8

"**Coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men but is choice and precious in the sight of God**, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "**BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**" This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "**THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,**" and "**A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE**"; **for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.**"

Jesus will offend people – that is clear

He says I am the only way to the Father -> **John 14:6** -> that will offend people

He said that He was God in the flesh many times -> that offended people

You talk about Jesus, it WILL offend people

You are either with Jesus, or you stumble because of Him

"What do you do with Jesus?" is the only important question for our time on Earth

2 Corinthians 5:11

“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men”

We plead with people to accept Him while they still have the chance

Jesus, The Cornerstone

Caiaphas was not interested, but the Lord used him for a prophecy:

John 11:51-52

“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 that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.**”

Jesus fulfilled that prophecy through the cross, but not only for the nation of Israel -> the Church!

“**but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad**”

The Church, with a capital C, became one through His sacrifice

He was and IS the cornerstone, Isaiah said:

Isaiah 28:16

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, **A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation**; Whoever believes will not act hastily”

Paul said Jesus was the foundation of the church:

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

The cornerstone set the foundation for a successful building

If the cornerstone was off, the foundation of the building would not hold to the right angle

1 Corinthians 3:11

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Is He a stumbling stone for you, or is He the cornerstone of your life?

Sayonara

The leaders plan to kill Jesus, so He retreated to the countryside to be with His disciples:

John 11:53-54

“So, from that day on they planned together to kill Him. 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.**”

Ephraim was about 12 miles from Jerusalem

He will pour into His disciples for the next few weeks until the Passover week begins

The APB Issued

John 11:55-57

“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.”

This is the Third time John has mentioned a Passover event (John 2:13 and 6:4 are the others)

Clear that Jesus’s ministry was 3 years with His disciples

People filled the city of Jerusalem during Passover, some 3x the size of normal

Everyone was abuzz knowing that the APB was out on Jesus

His next entrance into Jerusalem would be His last visit before the cross

What can we apply from today’s message?

- You are either with Jesus or against Him
- You either work for Him, or you work against Him
- Some will stumble over Jesus and be crushed
- Others will know Him as the cornerstone, the foundation for their lives
- He is the foundation of the Church

Sheep do not run the church -> He is the Head of His Church

Anyone in a pulpit who says otherwise is lost, at worst, and misguided, at best

Where are you with Jesus?

Do you stumble over His words or is He the cornerstone of your life?

Are you devoted to Jesus?

“My Jesus, I love Thee...”

Prayer

Benediction