

The Gospel of John Part 59: The Unstoppable Will of God

John 11:47-54



John 11:47-54 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is doing many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this,

all will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." 51 Now he did not say this from himself, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 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. 53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him. 54 Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk openly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples.

1) There is a Cost to Man's Misplaced Love. The chief priests and Pharisees gather the Sanhedrin because they view Jesus as a threat to their position, power, and influence. Although they acknowledge His signs, they refuse to believe because their hearts are attached to the

world rather than to God. In seeking to preserve their "place" and "nation," they overlook the greater promise God made to Abraham—the blessing that would come through Christ to all nations. Their problem is not a lack of evidence but a misplaced love. The same challenge confronts people today: many reject Jesus because they love their present life more than the life He offers. Misplaced love always comes at a cost.

2) There is a Mystery in God's Greater Purpose. Caiaphas proposes that Jesus should die to preserve the nation, believing he has found a political solution to their problem. Yet God uses Caiaphas's evil intentions to proclaim a greater truth: Jesus would die not only for Israel but to gather God's people from every nation. What men intended for evil, God intended for salvation. This reveals a profound mystery of God's sovereignty—His ability to accomplish His purposes even through human rebellion. Like many found throughout Scripture, we may only see the darkness of present circumstances, but God is always at work behind the scenes. His greater purpose cannot be thwarted, and His redemptive plan will ultimately prevail.

3) There is a Certainty in God's Perfect Timing. With the Sanhedrin's decision to kill Jesus, the events leading to the cross are set in motion. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly declared that His hour had not yet come. Now the appointed time is drawing near. The leaders believe they are controlling events, but they are actually moving according to God's sovereign timetable. Jesus withdraws temporarily, not because He fears His enemies, but because every detail unfolds according to the Father's perfect plan. This reminds believers that God is the Lord of time itself. When we struggle with delays or unanswered questions, we can trust that God's timing is never late and never early. His purposes are always accomplished at exactly the right moment.