

Our 40 Day Journey to the Cross

Day 8 Thursday

Please Read John 11:45-57

It Seems Raising People from the Dead Can Get You Into a Lot of Trouble

45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

Many Believed

This was undeniably an impressive work of God, and for many it helped them put their trust in who Jesus said He was by seeing what He did.

Tattletales

John continues his persistent theme – that the words and works of Jesus **divide** humanity between those who believe and those who reject. There were some who saw both the power and sympathy of Jesus but yet still responded by working against Him.

For this Man works many signs

The religious leaders (It was a meeting of the Sanhedrin) privately admitted that Jesus performed signs that authenticated His claim to be Messiah and God. As Jesus claimed, His works did bear witness of Him (John 10:25).

Their opposition changed. **First** they opposed Jesus because they weren't convinced He was the Messiah. **Now** they opposed Jesus because they were convinced that He was the Messiah. They admitted the miracles, but look how they treated the Miracle-worker:

- They denied Him
- They opposed Him
- They were afraid of
His influence over the people

v48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”

As Jesus attracted more and more followers, the religious leaders feared that the Romans would regard it as a significant threat. Wanting especially to keep their power and prestige, they wondered how to deal with the problem of Jesus.

Most commentators believe that our place refers to the temple. The religious leaders had made such an idol of the temple that they were willing to kill Jesus to preserve it.
ii. ” ‘Our place’ which, they feared, would be taken away was the temple.

It is telling that the religious leaders thought of the temple as our place, as if it belonged to them. Many church leaders today do the same, truly thinking of the church as our church instead of really understanding that it belongs to Jesus.