

Coastline Small Group Questions | Repeating History | John 11:45-57

In the second half of John 11, we read about the response of the Jews to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, the religious leaders' reaction, and Jesus' withdrawal to a place near the wilderness. This Sunday, we heard about the history of Israel between the Old and New Testaments, the origin of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Sanhedrin, and how events hundreds of years before Christ's birth affected the plot to kill Jesus. In this passage, God uses ungodly people to enact His plan, and Jesus works in his own timing. Discuss with your group the responses and conversations that happen surrounding this recent part of Jesus' ministry.

1. **Read John 11:45-46.** What are the differences between the two reactions we see from the Jews? What do you think motivated the second group? If this happened today, how do you think people would respond?
2. This Sunday, we heard about the origin of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. What do you remember about the different attitudes of these two groups? How does this affect the conversation that plays out in **John 11:47-53**?
3. In this passage, the religious leaders' response to Jesus' miracles is to seek to kill Him. Why do you think they reacted so strongly? What might have been their motivations and fears?
4. What does the statement by Caiaphas in **John 11:49-50** reveal about Caiaphas' perspective on Jesus?
5. Caiaphas prophesied about Jesus' death (**John 11:51-52**). What did Caiaphas think it meant? Was he right? What does that demonstrate about how God works his plan?
6. In **John 11:53**, it is mentioned that they "plotted to put Him to death." How do you think people (ourselves included) justify their actions when they are convinced that what they're doing is for a greater good or a noble cause?
7. What does **John 11:54** reveal about Jesus' approach to his mission? What is happening in Jerusalem while he is gone?
8. Share the ways your group members can be praying for each other. Spend some time in prayer to God, submitting to His plan and timing.