INTRODUCTION

After Jesus raised Lazarus, the response was what we would expect: some will have eyes to see Jesus as Messiah, and others will become even more adamant in opposition to Him. But, this weekend we find that one of the most prominent opponents of Jesus actually becomes an unexpected witness to His Messianic mission.

The Role of the “Witness” in John’s Gospel

The Public Response: v. 45,46

The Leadership Response: v. 47,48

The Caiaphas Resolution: v. 49,50

John’s Explanation: v. 51,52

The Leadership Plan: v. 53

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2: 2
REFLECT | JOHN 11:45-54
What was the motivation of the religious leaders’ opposition to Jesus? What did they believe was at stake? What does this reveal about their hearts and their view of God and His plan? What is the advice that Caiaphas gives? How is this based upon his motivation, why was this counsel foolish? How does John highlight God’s sovereignty in Caiaphas’ response? How does this text help us learn to trust God in the midst of when we observe what we think are bad things happening? How do we see Him using bad things for His good purpose?

MEMORIZE | 1 JOHN 2:1-6
“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him, but whoever keeps His Word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.”

STUDY | ACTS 2:22-23
What is your understanding of the sovereignty of God? Why is it significant to know that God was in control of Jesus’ death? What is at stake if we reject this idea? Why do you think so many people struggle with the idea that God is sovereign? How do you submit to the sovereignty of God? How would you help someone understand the sovereignty of God in the midst of suffering?

SHARE
Is there someone in your life who is experiencing difficult times? How would you comfort them with the knowledge that God is in control and sees them in their pain?

PRAY
Take some time and go to prayer for some of the needs in our congregation. Go to: gracebaptist.org/prayer to see the requests. Feel free to submit a prayer request of your own as well.