

## THE COUNCIL THAT MET TO KILL JESUS

**INTRODUCTION**

The Gospel of John tells us in many places that the leaders of Israel tried to murder Jesus. John 5:18 says, “they were seeking all the more to kill Him ... because He was calling God His own Father.” John 8:59 says “Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him” because He said that He preceded Abraham and John 10:30-31 says that they did it again when He told them that “I and the Father are one.” Now things have become so hostile that the leaders decide to meet in order to create a plan to settle this issue once and for all which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “4 Observations to Make about the Council that Met to Kill Jesus.”

**1). They Met to Kill Jesus because He Got in the Way of Their Power (verses 47-48).**

Verses 47-48 says, *“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.’”*

Discussion Question A: What kind of men were the chief priests and Pharisees and how does that impact what they are saying in verses 47-48?

Discussion Question B: Were their words spoken to truly help the nation of Israel or help themselves? How do you know and how did it put them at odds with Christ?

**2). They Met to Kill Jesus Because God Preordained It (verses 49-53).**

Verses 49-51 says, *“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.”*

Discussion Question A: What kind of man was Caiaphas and how does that impact what he says in verses 49-51?

Discussion Question B: Explain the meaning of the phrase “Now he did not say this on his own initiative.” Whose initiative did Caiaphas say this by and how does that demonstrate the sovereignty of God?

### **3). They Met to Kill Jesus but Could Not Do So Until He was Ready (verse 54).**

Verse 54 says, *“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.”*

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus “no longer walk publicly among the Jews?”

Discussion Question B: Did this show that Jesus was a coward? Why / Why not? Can you think of any other times when Jesus avoided a fight with the leaders of Israel?

### **4). They Met to Kill Jesus because They had Their Priorities Out of Whack (verses 55-57).**

Verses 55-57 says, *“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.”*

Discussion Question A: Why is it strange that the leaders of Israel sought to kill Jesus in the temple?

Discussion Question B: What should the leaders of Israel have been doing in the temple right before the Passover instead? How does their behavior demonstrate their misplaced priorities?