

“One Man”
John 11:47-57

Introduction:

1. As We Return To John 11 This Morning:
 - We Come To The Aftermath:
 - Of What Was, Perhaps, The Greatest Miracle Of Jesus:
 - Up To This Point In His Life:
 - The Raising Of Lazarus:
 - His Friend & Follower:
 - From The Dead!
2. And - The Power He Displayed:
 - In This Miracle:
 - Naturally Drew The Response:
 - That We Saw Last Sunday!
 - There Were Some:
 - Who Were Filled With Faith:
 - At What Had Just Seen & Heard!
 - Even As We Are Told In 11:45:
 - “Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him!”
 - However - There Were Others:
 - Who Remained In Their Faithlessness:
 - And In Their Hardness Of Heart:
 - According To 11:46:
 - “Some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done!”
3. And This Brings About:
 - What We Come To Next:
 - In 11:47-57 - “Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. / 48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. / 49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, / 50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. / 51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; / 52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. / 53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. / 54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples. / 55 And the Jews’ passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. / 56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? / 57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him!”
4. Though There Are Many Groups:
 - Referred To In These Verses:
 - The Focus Is Really On:
 - Just One Man - Even:
 - As Caiaphas Said In 11:50:
 - The “One Man” Who “Should Die For The People!”
 - And - That One Man Is, Of Course, Jesus!
 - And - In These Verses:
 - We Find Four Things:
 - That Are Connected To:
 - The Mission Of That One Man!
 - And - Each Of Those Connections Require A Response:
 - From You This Morning!
5. And So - The First Connection:
 - We Find Is In 11:47-48:

- Where We See:

1. A Problem With Him!

- A Problem - With That One Man!
 - Because When The Religious Leaders Of The Jews:
 - Caught Wind Of Jesus' Most Recent Miracle:
 - They Became Even More Troubled & Threatened By Jesus:
 - Than Ever Before!
 - In 11:47a - We Are Told:
 - "Then Gathered The Chief Priests And The Pharisees A Council!"
 - Now - In Jesus' Day:
 - There Was A Religious Divide Between The Chief Priests & The Pharisees!
 - The Priests Made Up:
 - The Sadducees:
 - Who Were In Opposition To:
 - The Pharisees!
 - And Yet - They Would Often Come Together:
 - As An Official Body:
 - Known As The Sanhedrin - Or:
 - The Council!
 - The Sanhedrin Was A Gathering:
 - Of Seventy Men:
 - Who Were Elders Of The Jews - And:
 - Led By The Chief Priest:
 - Who Was #71!
 - And - In Jesus' Day:
 - They Served Together As:
 - The Chief Authority Of Israel:
 - In All Religious, Political, And Judicial Matters!
 - Though They Were Constantly:
 - Under The Watchful Eye:
 - Of Rome!
 - Now - We're Left To Wonder:
 - If This Was An Official Meeting:
 - Of The Sanhedrin - Or An Unofficial One:
 - Called Up Quickly & Perhaps Even Secretly:
 - To Deal With The Problem Of Jesus!
 - And - To Be Sure:
 - Jesus Had Become A Problem:
 - To These Jewish Leaders!
 - But Up To This Point:
 - They Were Not Able To Do Anything About Him!
 - And Now - Jesus Was Getting To Be:
 - An Even Bigger Problem To Them:
 - Than Before! Because:
 - That One Man Was:
- A Problem & A Threat To Their Faith!
 - Which Is Why In 11:47b:
 - They Asked Themselves:
 - "What Do We Do? For This Man Doeth Many Miracles!"
 - What A Sad Response:
 - To That One Man - Jesus!
 - Though They Recognized:
 - His Power - To Do Miracles!
 - They Still Resisted:
 - The Purpose & The Meaning Of Those Miracles!
 - Which Was To Shake Them:
 - From Their Faulty Faith - And:

- To Bring Them To:
 - A Saving Faith In Him!
- But - They Wanted Nothing To Do With:
 - Jesus - And So - They Were Troubled!
 - Because - That One Man Was Also:
- A Problem & A Threat To Their Following!
 - Which Is What We Find In 11:48:
 - Where They Continue Their Discussion About Jesus - And Say:
 - “If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him!”
 - This Concern Speaks To:
 - The Effectiveness Of Jesus’ Ministry!
 - Many Did Believe:
 - In Jesus! (11:45)
 - And They Were Concerned That:
 - Many More Would Believe:
 - If They Did Nothing About Him!
 - And - This Was Part Of Their Problem With Jesus!
 - They Didn’t Want The People:
 - To Follow Or Believe In Anyone Else:
 - But Them!
 - After All - *They* Were Sitting In:
 - The Seat Of Moses!
 - And The Authority Of Jesus Was A Threat To Their Authority!
 - **IE:** And What Do Leaders Try To Do When Their Power / Authority Is Threatened? Get Rid Of The Threat! Especially In Authoritarian Countries - Like North Korea / Iran / Russia! Etc!
 - And So - They Were Troubled:
 - By That One Man Even More!
 - But - When We Come To 11:48b:
 - I Think We Discover The Real Problem They Had With Jesus!
 - He Was:
- A Problem & A Threat To Their Freedom!
 - Because - They Were Concerned That:
 - “The Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation!”
 - The “Place” They Refer To Is Most Likely The Temple - And:
 - Their “Nation” Is The Jewish People That They Were Responsible For!
 - But - Underlying All Of This:
 - Was A Concern For Their Own:
 - Position & Power!
 - Note How They Said:
 - “The Romans Shall Come & Take Away **Our** Place & Nation!”
 - Not **God’s** Place & Nation!
 - If *Their* Place & *Their* People:
 - Were Taken Away:
 - So Would *Their* Power & All The Privilege That Went Along With It!
- And So - They Remained Troubled By:
 - That One Man! By Jesus!
 - And - We Need To Remember That:
 - Jesus Is Still This Kind Of “Threat” & “Problem” To People Like Us!
 - Paul Puts It This Way:
 - In 1 Corinthians 1:23 - “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness!”
 - Jesus Is Still This Kind Of Problem!
 - After All - In 14:6 - Jesus Will Say - “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!”
 - And - That Is A Continuing Problem & An Offense:
 - For The Faith, Following, And Freedom Of Man!
 - Because - When You Are Confronted With:
 - The Truth - You Have To Make A Choice!

- Will You Give Up:
 - Your Faulty Faith:
 - For Faith In Him?
- Will You Give Up:
 - Your Following:
 - To Follow Him?
- Will You Give Up:
 - Your Perceived Freedom:
 - To Become Truly Free?
- That One Man - Jesus:
 - Became A Problem To Sinners - So That:
 - He Might Become The Solution:
 - To Our Biggest Problems:
 - Of Sin & Ourselves!
- How Have You Responded To:
 - The Problem Of Jesus?
 - But Then - The Second Connection With Jesus We Come To In These Verses Is:

2. ***A Prophecy About Him!***

- A Prophecy - About That One Man!
 - In 11:49-50 - Where We Are Told:
 - “And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, / Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not!”
 - Now - From The History Books:
 - We Learn That Caiaphas Had Been The High Priest For Over Ten Years By This Time:
 - Having Been Given His Position By Rome In AD 18 - And Would Serve In His Position Until AD 36-37!
 - So - When John Writes That:
 - Caiaphas Was “The High Priest That Same Year!”
 - He Is Highlighting *That* Year As The “Year Of Years!”
 - The Year When Many Prophecies - Including This One - Would Be Fulfilled By That One Man!
 - And - Before We Look At:
 - *What* Caiaphas Said - I Think We Ought To See:
 - *Who* Caiaphas Was!
 - Because - His Words Tell Us Something Of His Character!
 - Even The Character Of The Man:
 - Who Was The Leader Of God’s People At That Time!
 - And So - When It Comes To The Character Of Caiaphas:
 - He Was A Condescending Man!
 - He Tells The Others:
 - In 11:49 - “Ye Know Nothing At All!” / “You Don’t Know Anything!”
 - So - Even Though He Was The “High Priest” & Put Into A Position Of Service For God’s People:
 - Instead, He Looked Down On Them & Treated Them With Contempt! Rude!
 - Also - We Can See That Caiaphas:
 - Was A Calculating Man!
 - When He Adds In 11:50 - “Nor Consider That It Is Expedient For Us / You!”
 - He Shows His Political & Pragmatic Philosophy!
 - When Something Is “Expedient” - It Means That:
 - It Is Profitable / Beneficial / Useful!
 - Caiaphas Saw That:
 - Their Problem With Jesus:
 - Could Turn Into Something:
 - Profitable & Useful:
 - For Them!
 - And So - It Is With This Kind Of Character:

- That Caiaphas Makes A Veiled Suggestion About What To Do With Jesus:
 - 11:50 - "That one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not!"
- Caiaphas Saw That:
 - The Death Of One Man:
 - Could Solve All Their Problems!
 - The Threat To Their Faith & Traditions:
 - Would Be Over - If:
 - Jesus Was Out Of The Way!
 - The Threat To Their Following & Power:
 - Would Be Over - And:
 - The People Would Listen To & Follow Them Again! And:
 - The Threat From Rome:
 - Would Be Over - Because:
 - The Established Order Would Continue!
- But - When Caiaphas Said These Words:
 - He Spoke More Than He Knew!
 - Because - Though Caiaphas Said These Words In A Cold, Condescending, Calculating Way - In Order To Get Rid Of Jesus!
 - God Was Speaking Through Caiaphas - In Order To Reveal The Final Prophecy About Jesus' Mission In This World!
- Because - John Further Tells Us:
 - In 11:51-52 - "And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; / And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad!"
 - What Caiaphas Meant For Evil:
 - God Would Use For Good!
- Even To Tell Us That Jesus Was That One Man!
 - And - As That Man:
- Jesus Is The One & Only Sacrifice!
 - "That One Man Should Die" - Caiaphas Said!
 - And That Is Why:
 - Jesus Came In The First Place!
 - To Die - As The Lamb Of God:
 - Who Came To Take Away The Sin Of The World!
- Jesus Came To Die:
 - Not For Any Sin Or Problem:
 - That He Had - But For:
 - The Sins & Problems:
 - That We Have! Also:
- Jesus Is The One & Only Substitute!
 - "That One Man Should Die *For* The People" - Caiaphas Said!
 - Jesus Came *To Be* For Us & *To Do* For Us:
 - What We Could Never Be Or Do:
 - Before God - For Ourselves!
 - We Needed A Substitute!
 - To Live The Life:
 - We Could Never Live - And:
 - To Die The Death:
 - We Deserve To Die!
- And - This Is Why Jesus Came!
 - "For" Us! Isaiah 53:5:
 - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed!"
- But - His Substitution Was Not Just For:
 - The People Of Israel - As John Points Out:
 - But - 11:52 - "Not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad!"
 - And So:

- Jesus Is The One & Only Savior!
 - So That - “The Whole Nation Perish Not” - Caiaphas Said!
 - But Again John Adds:
 - “Not For That Nation Only, But . . . All The Children Of God!”
 - No Matter Who They Are!
 - No Matter Where They Are!
 - No Matter What They’ve Done!
- And So - God Used The Words Of:
 - That Wicked Man - Caiaphas - To Reveal:
 - One Final Time:
 - The Gospel Message:
 - That God Uses To “Gather Together In One The Children Of God!” - Even *All:*
 - The Children Of God!
- This Was Our Biggest Problem!
 - We Were Not At One:
 - With Any-One!
 - Not With God!
 - Not With Man!
 - But - This Is The Gospel!
 - Jesus Gathers All God’s True Children:
 - Into One - As A New Nation:
 - A Spiritual Nation!
 - So That We Might Have Peace:
 - With Both God & Man!
- Though This Was Not:
 - What Caiaphas Had In Mind - This Was:
 - What God Had In Mind!
 - And - What Caiaphas Thought:
 - Might Solve *Their* Problems *With Jesus:*
 - God Used To Solve *Our* Problems Through *Jesus!*
- And So - Whatever Problem You Might Have:
 - You Can “Look To The Lamb Of God!”
 - Because That One Man - Jesus:
 - Came To Die:
 - For Your Problems!
 - Acc. To God’s Own Prophecy!
- But - This Then Leads To A Third Connection With Jesus:
 - That We Come To In These Verses!
 - And That Is:

3. ***A Plan For Him!***

- A Plan - For That One Man!
 - That We Find In 11:53-54:
 - “Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. / Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples!”
 - In These Two Verses - We Find:
 - Two Gatherings!
- The First Gathering:
 - Involved Plans:
 - For The Destruction Of Christ!
 - There In 11:53 - “Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death!”
 - Now - Didn’t We See Already:
 - In The Gospel Of John:
 - How Some Of The Leaders:
 - Sought To Kill Jesus?

- Yes - This Is First Mentioned:
 - In 5:18 - And Several Times After That!
- But - From This Point On:
 - The Jewish Leaders:
 - Made The Death & Destruction Of Jesus A Matter Of:
 - Official Policy!
 - And - To Make Things Worse:
 - Their Plan & Plot Was Not:
 - For The Benefit Of The People:
 - But - To Better Their Own Position & Power!
- This Was A Wicked Plan:
 - Devised In A Wicked Gathering:
 - To Destroy The Very One:
 - Who Was The Solution To:
 - Their Wickedness!
 - And Yet:
- The Second Gathering - In 11:54:
 - Involved Plans:
 - For The Discipleship Of Christians!
 - Even Christ's Followers! "Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples!"
 - Jesus "Continued" - Or - "Abode" With His Disciples:
 - In A Rather Quiet, Off-The-Beaten-Path Place:
 - Until His Hour Would:
 - Finally Come!
 - More Than Likely:
 - This City Of Ephraim:
 - Was Less Than 20 Miles From Jerusalem:
 - But Was The Kind Of Place:
 - That The Only Reason *To Go* There Was *To Be* There!
 - So - It Would Have Been The Perfect Place:
 - For Jesus To Continue:
 - Teaching His Disciples!
 - Praying For His Disciples!
 - Enjoying Fellowship With His Disciples!
 - And Preparing His Disciples:
 - For What Was About To Come!
- But - Through These Two Gatherings - And:
 - The Plans Being Made:
 - We See No Worry In Jesus - And:
 - No Hurry!
 - Because Jesus Knew:
 - That One Man Should Die:
 - For Our Problems!
 - According To God's Prophecy!
 - In Order To Accomplish:
 - God's Plan!
 - And - Jesus Knew That:
 - He Was That Man!
 - So - As The Plans Of The Jews:
 - Came Together - He Continued With His Disciples In That Solitary Place - To Accomplish The Plan Of His Father!
 - We Need To Remember:
 - That The Plan Of God:
 - Is Always Over:
 - The Plans Of Man!
 - And - We Can Rest Assured That:

- The Plan Of God:
 - Will Be Accomplished:
 - No Matter What!
- So - As Jesus “Continued With His Disciples!”
 - So - We Can “Continue” & “Abide” With Him! Until:
 - All Of God’s Plans Are Accomplished - Even Through:
 - The Plans Of Man!
- And This Brings Us To Our Fourth & Final Connection With Jesus - And That Is:

4. *A Passover For Him!*

- A Passover - For That One Man!
 - That We Find Next In 11:55-57:
 - “And the Jews’ passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. / Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? / Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him!”
 - John Tells Us That:
 - “The Jew’s Passover Was Nigh At Hand!”
 - And - This Would Be The Final Passover:
 - That Jesus Would Experience:
 - In His Life & Ministry!
 - But - If You Remember:
 - The Passover Was:
 - A Special Time:
 - Of Celebration!
 - And - A Special Time:
 - Of Commemoration!
 - Because - The Jews Looked Back In Their History:
 - To The Time When God Delivered Them:
 - As A Nation - From Their:
 - Bondage & Slavery In Egypt!
 - And - As God Was Judging The Egyptians:
 - So That They Might Let His People Go:
 - When He Brought Upon Them:
 - The Final Plague - The Death Of Every Firstborn!
 - God Told His People:
 - To Take & To Kill A Lamb:
 - That Would Take Their Place:
 - So That The Angel Of The Lord Would Pass Over Them!
 - According To Exodus 12:13:
 - “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be!”
 - And - This Is What The Jews:
 - Were Coming To Jerusalem:
 - To Celebrate & To Commemorate!
 - And So - It Was Also:
 - A Special Time:
 - Of Cleansing!
 - According To 11:55 - Many Of The People:
 - Came Even “Before The Passover To Purify Themselves!”
 - So - There Were Many Who Were Serious About The Purpose Of This National & Spiritual Holiday!
 - And Yet - Because Of Their Own Leaders:
 - And Their Desire To Destroy Jesus:
 - That Special Time Of:
 - Celebration & Commemoration & Even Cleansing:
 - Became:

- A Sad Time:
 - Of Curiosity & Even Conspiracy!
 - First - Curiosity By The People:
 - As They - 11:56 - “Sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?”
 - For Some - This Might Have Been From Honest & Believing Hearts! But For Others - They Might Have Been Involved In:
 - The Conspiracy Of The Leaders!
 - Since - 11:57 - “Both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him!”
- And So - During One Of The Most:
 - Special & Significant Times In The Jewish Calendar:
 - The Leaders Of The Jews:
 - Turned The House Of God:
 - Into A House Of Guile!
 - And Tried To Get The People:
 - To Become Part Of Their Plot:
 - Against Jesus!
 - So - What Was Mean To Be:
 - A Special Time For God’s People:
 - Became One Of The Saddest Times:
 - In The History Of The Jews!
 - And Yet - Once Again:
 - God Was About To Turn:
 - That Final Passover For Jesus:
 - Into The Final Passover:
 - For All!
 - Because - Jesus Was The:
 - One Man That Should Die:
 - For Our Problems!
 - According To God’s Prophecy!
 - To Accomplish God’s Plan!
 - As The Final Passover:
 - Through The Shedding Of His Blood On The Cross!

Conclusion:

1. And All Because Of That “One Man” - You Can:
 - Receive Forgiveness & Freedom From:
 - Your Greatest Problems:
 - When You Put Your Faith In & Continue To Follow The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And Now - You Can Continue & Abide With Him - Because Of:
 - All That He Did For You!
2. You Only Need “One Man” To Provide:
 - All This For You! And That “One Man” Is Jesus!

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