

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for November 26-27, 2005

"Lazarus, Come Forth"

John 11:45-57

The preparation for the miracle (John 11:1-16).

The arrival of Jesus and His disciples in Bethany (John 11:17-37).

The raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44).

The response of the Jewish people to the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:45-57).

The apostle initially focused on those who chose to believe in Christ because of the miracle (John 11:45).

In light of John 11:41-42, the many who believed in Christ must have believed that His Father had sent Him into this world.

The apostle then focused on those who chose not to believe in Christ in spite of the miracle (John 11:46).

The unbelieving eyewitnesses went to the Pharisees because they apparently shared, to some degree, the same concern about Christ's growing influence as the Pharisees themselves.

The Pharisees with the cooperation of the chief priests convened the council of the Sanhedrin, which was the highest judicial body in Israel (John 11:47).

The chief priests were ex-high priests, mostly of the politically oriented sect of the Sadducees, who were theological liberals and didn't believe in resurrection or angels.

The Sanhedrin was afraid that if people believed that Jesus was in fact their Messiah, the rightful king of Israel, and acknowledged Him as such, then Rome would destroy the temple and Israel.

The Jewish leaders fear of their diminishing influence, I believe, led them to erroneously entertain the thought that Rome might destroy their temple and nation because of Christ.

Caiaphas, in essence, was telling the Sanhedrin in John 11:50 that Jesus needed to be sacrificed so that the nation of Israel and its people could be spared from Rome's wrath.

The Apostle John is telling us that though Caiaphas was an evil man working out an agenda, God used Him to speak prophetically of Christ and His atoning death.

The children of God who are scattered abroad should be understood not only to be referring to faithful Jews living outside of Israel, but to future believing Gentiles as well.

May God give us the grace to understand that all things are being worked together for good to those who love God.