

The Resurrection: Believe Jesus or Not?

John 11:45-57



Theme of John 11:45-57

The threefold response to the resurrection of Lazarus contributed to the eternal purposes of the Lord God in sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die in the place of and for the salvation of His people, both Jews and Gentiles.

The Prologue

John 11- <u>Lazarus Raised</u>	<u>Many</u>
John 9- <u>Man Born Blind</u>	<u>The Man</u>
John 6- <u>Walking on Water</u>	<u>No one</u>
John 6- <u>Feeding 5000</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
John 5- <u>Paralytic Man</u>	<u>The Man</u>
John 4- <u>Nobleman's Son</u>	<u>Household</u>
John 2- <u>Water to Wine</u>	<u>Disciples</u>

The First Response - John 11:45

1. Many of the Jews who came to Mary saw Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus

John 11:18-19 and 15

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.

Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

The First Response - John 11:45

1. Many of the Jews who came to Mary saw Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus
2. Many of the Jews who came to Mary believed in Jesus

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”

The First Response - John 11:45

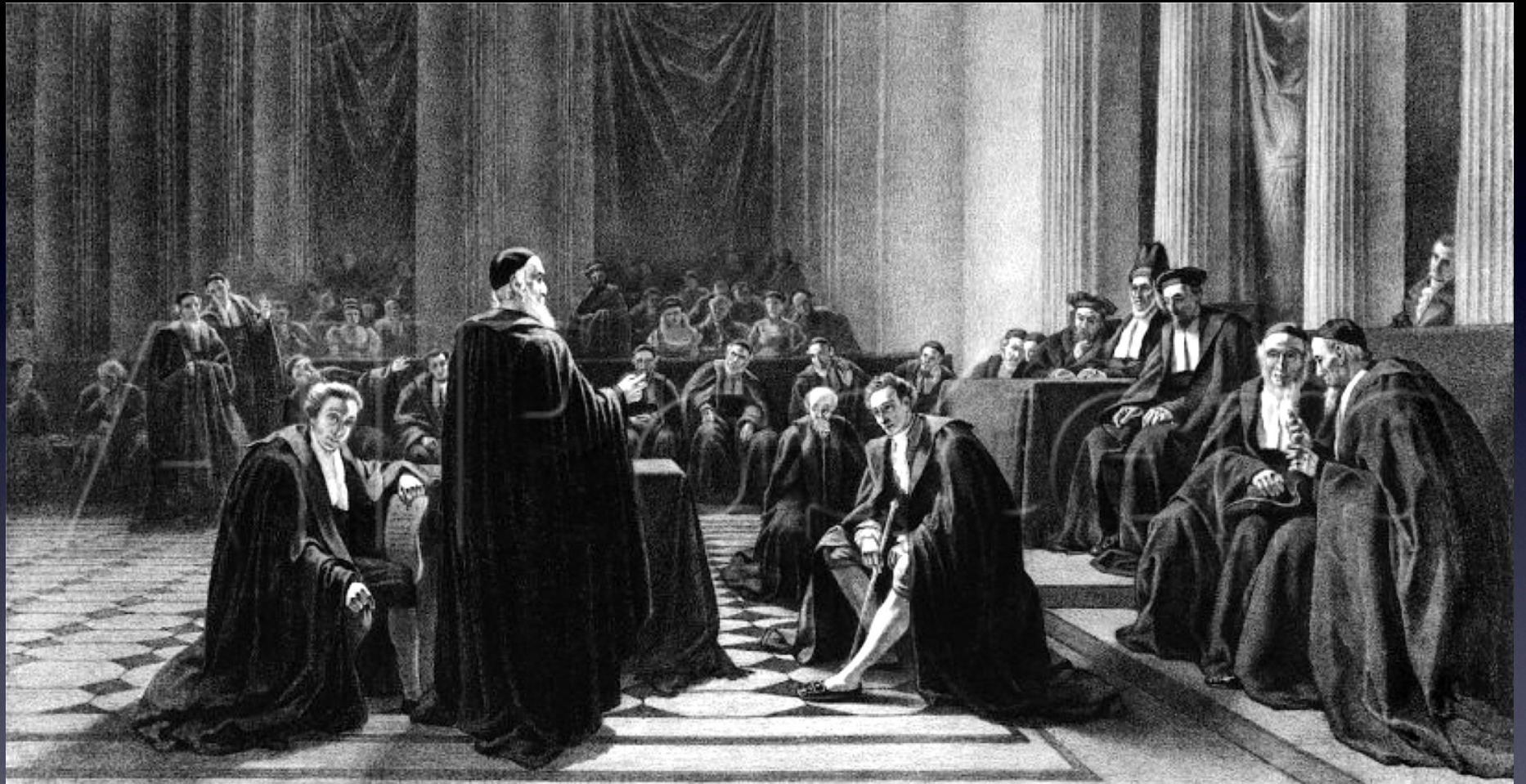
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2. Many of the Jews who came to Mary believed in Jesus

The Second Response - John 11:46

1. Some of the Jews reported to the Pharisees what Jesus had done
2. Some of the Jews apparently did not believe in Jesus

The Third Response - John 11:47-53

I. The Sanhedrin called a Council Meeting



Sanhedrin - An Uncommon Coalition

Pharisees

Religious

OT Scriptures

Resurrection

Angels

Ultra-nationalists

Middle Class

Hated Sadducees

Hated Jesus

for religious reasons

Sadducees

Political

Pentateuch

No Resurrection

No Angels

Political Opportunists

Wealthy Aristocrats

Hated Pharisees

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The Third Response - John 11:47-53

1. The Sanhedrin called a Council Meeting
2. The sole agenda item was “What are we doing about Jesus?”
3. They admitted and did not deny that Jesus performed signs but did not believe in Jesus

Commentator Quotes

“They owned the genuineness of His miracles, yet were their consciences unmoved.”

“They admitted the miracles, yet opposed the Miracle-worker.”

“This response of unbelief in the face of the clearest proof is confirmation of Christ’s teaching in Luke 16:31: ‘If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.’ The chief cause of unbelief is not inadequate information, but a heart in rebellion against the authority of God and His Word.”

The Third Response - John 11:47-53

1. The Sanhedrin called a Council Meeting
2. The sole agenda item was “What are we doing about Jesus?”
3. They admitted and did not deny that Jesus performed signs but did not believe in Jesus
4. Their main concern was losing their personal position and power

The Third Response - John 11:47-53 (continued)

5. The unwitting prophecy of Caiaphas, the High Priest:

“it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.”

a. He did not say this on his own but was prompted by the Spirit of God

b. His statement is not even true for his own intention but it is true for God's intention

Boyce - It does seem strange that the prophecy should come from such an evil source. But it does not remain strange when we look at it in the light of God's dealings with men throughout biblical history. Did not the Spirit of God breathe through Balaam of old? Is there anything incredible in a man's prophesying unconsciously? Did not Pilate do so, when he nailed over the cross, "This is the King of the Jews," and wrote it in Hebrew and in Greek, and in Latin, conceiving himself to be perpetuating a rude jest, while he was proclaiming an everlasting truth?

Boice (continued) - When the Pharisees stood at the foot of the cross and taunted Him, "He saved others, Himself He cannot save," did they not, too, speak deeper things than they knew? And were not lips of this unworthy, selfish, unspiritual, unscrupulous, cruel priest so used as that, all unconsciously, his words lent themselves to the proclamation of the glorious central truth of Christianity, that Christ died for the nation that slew Him and rejected Him, nor for them alone, but for all the world.

The Third Response - John 11:47-53 (continued)

6. The divine commentary of the Apostle John

“he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

a. The death of Jesus Christ was a substitutionary atonement

b. The death of Jesus Christ was for both Jews and Gentiles

c. There are only two alternatives - we die or Jesus dies

The Third Response - John 11:47-53 (continued)

6. The divine commentary of the Apostle John

d. Caiaphas, the High Priest, lost his position to the real High Priest, Jesus Christ

Boyce - What an irony! What a tragedy! For this was the year in which the great “High Priest forever” came and stood by the earthly high priest -- the reality by the shadow -- and by His sacrifice of Himself for sin emptied the earthly priesthood and earthly sacrifices of all validity. Caiaphas did not even know it! Consequently, he lost not only his place and his nation, but his office as well, which henceforth passed to that One who alone is worthy of it and who is able to execute it perfectly.

The Epilogue

John 11:54-57

1. The Passover was near but not yet - His hour had not yet come
2. The curious onlookers speculated as to whether Jesus would show up for the Passover
3. The Sanhedrin had issued an all points bulletin for the arrest of Jesus

Implications

1. What are we doing with the signs and claims of Jesus?

2. As an unbeliever, you have only two choices - either you die eternally or Jesus dies in your place

Be amazed and thankful at having been dead in your sins, now to have eternal life through Jesus Christ