

“When Life Leads to Death”

John 11:45-57

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Theme

Unbelief will often disguise itself as “Wisdom” and
“Necessity”

The question for us isn’t whether Jesus gives us life –
but

It’s whether we’re willing to surrender our old life to have a
New Life in Christ!





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- Wiersbe -
- *“As with the previous miracles, the people were divided in their response. Some did believe and on “Palm Sunday” gave witness of the miracle Jesus had performed (John 12:17–18). But others immediately went to the religious leaders and reported what had happened in Bethany. These “informers” were so near the kingdom, yet there is no evidence that they believed. If the heart will not yield to truth, then the grace of God”... will not bring salvation.*

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I. Their Reactions – vs. 45

A. Some were of faith – vs. 45

1. They believed in Him

John 20:31

“These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

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The Seven Signs of Jesus

1. **Water Turned to Wine** (John 2:1–11) revealing Jesus' power over nature & creation.
2. **Healing the Official's Son** (John 4:46–54) emphasizing faith without visible proof.
3. **Healing at the Pool of Bethesda** (John 5:1–15) Demonstrating Jesus' authority not only over illness but over religious interpretation and tradition.
4. **Feeding the 5,000** (John 6:1–14) This sign recalls God's provision of manna in the wilderness and prepares readers for Jesus' declaration, "I am the bread of life."
5. **Walking on Water** (John 6:16–21) displays his authority over nature
6. **Healing the Man Born Blind** (John 9:1–41) More than a physical healing, this sign sparks a theological debate about sin, suffering, and spiritual blindness. It culminated in the man proclaiming faith in Jesus.
7. **Raising Lazarus from the Dead** (John 11:1–44) This miracle prefigures Jesus' own resurrection, which will ultimately declare Jesus as "the resurrection and the life."

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John 11:40 –

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

Luke 11:23 –

“ He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”

Leon Morris –

“The crowd would see the miracle, but only believers could perceive its real significance and glory.”

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I. Their Reactions – vs. 45-47

A. In faith – vs. 45

1. They believed by faith, in Him
2. caused not in the miracle itself - but the work of the Holy Spirit

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The God of the Old Testament as seen in I AM statements of Jesus Himself

I AM – “*the Bread of Life*” – John 6:35, 41, 48, 51

I AM – “*the Light of the World*” – John 8:12, 9:5

I AM – “*the Door of the Sheep*” – John 10:7, 9

I AM – “*the Good Shepherd*” – John 10:11,14

I AM – “*the Resurrection and the Life*” – John 11:25

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Revelation 21:4

“and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain ; the first things have passed away.”

2nd Cor 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2nd Cor 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.”

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I. The Reaction –

B. Of Unbelief – vs. 46-47

Main point – Miracles don't Guarantee Saving Faith and
many times, unbelief causes division

John 4:48 –

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”

John 3:19 –

“This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their deeds were evil.”

Luke 12:51 –

“Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division.”

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Homer Kent –

“This response of unbelief in the face of the clearest PROOF is confirmation of Christ’s teaching in Luke 16:31 which says “And he Abraham told him “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises 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.”

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II. The Sanhedrin's Concern – vs. 48

A. Fear of Losing Control of the Nation

B. For loss of Power

C. For the Status of Their Position

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Matthew Henry -

“The things that belong to the nation’s peace were hid from the eyes of those that were entrusted with its counsels. This council was called, not only for joint advice, but for mutual irritation; that as iron sharpens iron, and as coals are to burning coals and wood to fire, so they might exasperate and inflame one another with enmity and rage against Christ and his doctrine.”

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III. The Prophecy – vs. 49-50

A. The Response of the High Priest

B. The Plot was simply – Kill Jesus

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IV. God's Sovereignty – vs. 51-53

- Explained – even in human schemes –

Revelation 7:9 –

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;”

Job 42:2 –

“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”

Isaiah 14:27 –

“For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

Mark 10:45 –

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

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V. John's Explanation – vs. 51-53

> Jesus was the Sanhedrin's common enemy -

John 10:16 -

Jesus said “I have other sheep which are not of this fold: I must bring them also and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd”.

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VI. The Official decision – vs. 53

A. Jesus must die –

B. from that day on they planned to kill Him

Acts 2:22-24

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God preformed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - 23“**This man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God **you** nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.** 24 but God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power”.

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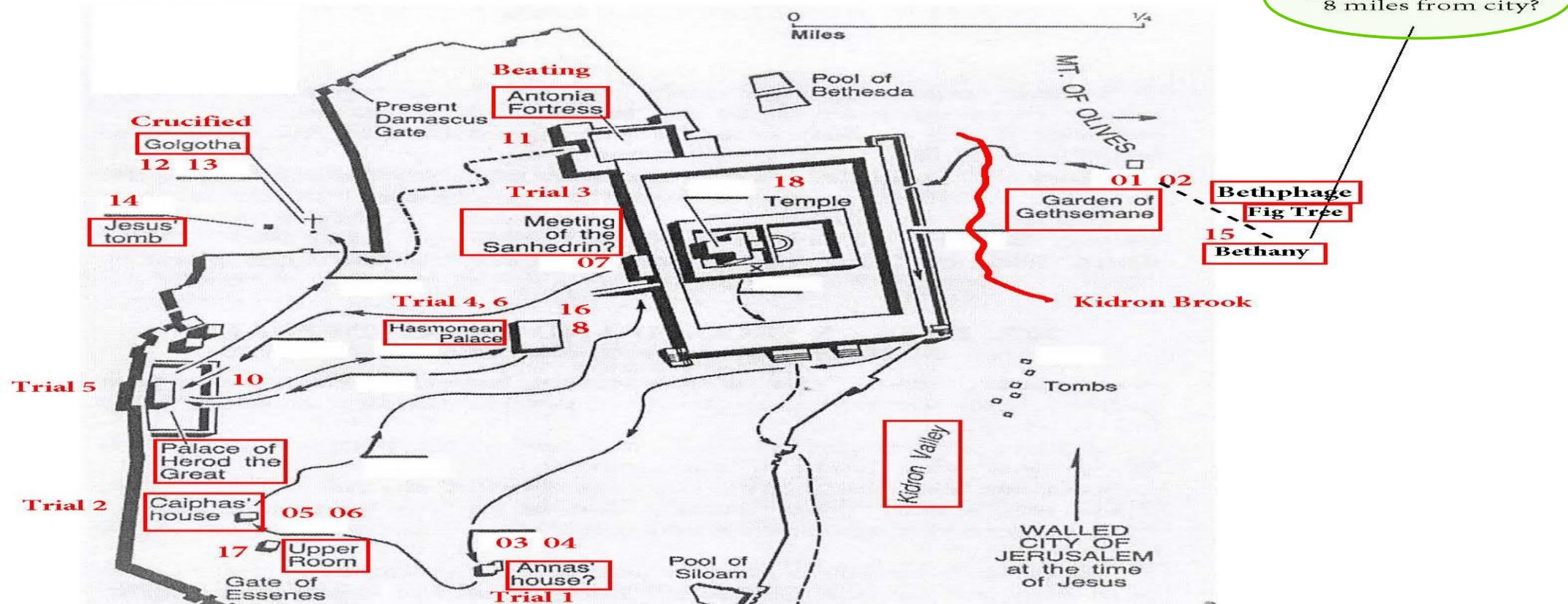
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VII. The Withdrawal – vs. 54

Trials, Death, and Burial of Jesus

3/8/23

Trials, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Received up into Heaven



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VIII. The Shadow of the Cross is growing – vs. 55-56

- A. Passover was near – a required feast – Lev 23
- B. Thousands were coming to celebrate & to purify themselves
- C. Preparation for Passover involved –
 1. Selection of a Lamb w/o blemish a symbol of purity & perfection
 2. the removal of all leaven – a symbol of the removal of sin & corruption
 3. preparation for the Sedar – emphasizes, freedom, redemption, & history
 - a. special foods –roasted lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, symbols of bondage and deliverance



The Passover Feast, is a picture that bridges the Old and New Testaments highlighting the themes of redemption, sacrifice, and divine deliverance in the growing

Shadow of the Cross

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IX. The Command of the Chief Priests & Pharisees – vs. 57

> To watch (for Jesus) and report where He was.

When Death Brings Life

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APPLICATION:

Remember the cross and the great cost of exchanging His life for yours & mine

So that by believing,
and

Dying to Self

Christ's Love and His Life will Shine Through You & Me

Ask the LORD JESUS

Help you & me to believe even when others resist

Help you & me to trust His sovereignty when life feels chaotic

Help you & me to embrace the cross, knowing that through it, Christ purchased

For Us

Eternal Life

“Victory in Jesus”

“Victory in Jesus”

I heard an old, old story, How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary, To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning, Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins, And won the victory.

(Chorus)

O victory in Jesus, My Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him, He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

“Victory in Jesus”

I heard about His healing, Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again, And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't To me the victory.

(Chorus)

O victory in Jesus, My Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him, He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

“Victory in Jesus”

I heard about a mansion, He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold, Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing, And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there, The song of victory.

(Chorus)

O victory in Jesus, My Savior, forever. He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him, He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.