

**Encountering Jesus**  
**31. Why did Jesus die? (John 11v45-57)**

**John Percival**

**Introduction**

- *A question of history*
- **Three points:**

**An evil plot (v45-48)**

- The *Sanhedrin* – meeting to discuss:
  - Powerful miracles
  - Growing popularity
  - A disastrous ending?
- **Blinded** by self interest

**An unwitting prophecy (v49-53)**

- Caiaphas – *“It is better that one man die”*
  - Political expediency
  - A substitutionary death

**A divine plan (v51-52)**

- Two **truths** together:
  - Human **responsibility**
  - God’s **sovereignty**
- Its **results** – *“to make them one”*

**Conclusion**

- Jesus withdraws (v54-57)

**John 11v45-57 (NIV)**

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

<sup>49</sup> Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup> You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

<sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, <sup>52</sup> and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

<sup>54</sup> Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

<sup>55</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. <sup>56</sup> They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” <sup>57</sup> But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.