Discussion & Reflection - Read John 11:45-57

1. The same miracle, different responses (vv. 45–46)
Why did witnessing Jesus' miracle lead some to faith while opposition to Him continued? Where have you seen people respond differently to the same truth?

2. Seeing God move (vv. 45–46)
The message asks, "Has what you've seen moved YOU?" What truth about Jesus have you heard repeatedly but struggled to put into practice?

3. Fear of losing control (vv. 47–48)
The leaders feared losing their place and nation. What are you protecting—pride, comfort, reputation, or control—that may be keeping you from surrendering to Christ?

4. The danger of justifying wrong (vv. 49–53)
Caiaphas made the plan to kill Jesus sound necessary. How can we recognize when we are dressing up a wrong decision with a reasonable-sounding explanation?

5. God's purpose in opposition (vv. 49–54)
How does knowing that God's saving purpose prevailed despite the leaders' plot strengthen your trust when circumstances are difficult or uncertain?

6. The Passover Lamb (vv. 55–57; Exodus 12)
How does the Passover lamb help you understand Jesus' sacrifice? What difference should His death and resurrection make in how you live this week?

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Jesus did not come merely to be admired from a distance. He came to be trusted, followed, and received. What one concrete act of faith or obedience will you take this week?

My next step:

_____

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The Gospel of John
"What Will You Do With Jesus" - John 11:45-57
November 15, 2026 - John Fisher

BIG IDEA: We can witness the work of Jesus and still resist His call. Our response to Him reveals what we believe—and what we are unwilling to surrender.

I. THE SAME MIRACLE, TWO DIFFERENT RESPONSES | John 11:45–46

Many who witnessed Jesus raise Lazarus believed in Him. Others reported what happened to the Pharisees. John does not tell us every person's motive, but he shows the opposition that followed.

"The question isn't simply whether you've seen God move. The question is: Has what you've seen moved YOU?"

Reflection: We can hear the Word, see lives changed, and still refuse to let Jesus change our own lives.

II. WHEN TRUTH THREATENS OUR CONTROL | John 11:47–48

The chief priests and Pharisees acknowledged Jesus' many signs, yet feared Roman intervention and losing their place and nation. Fear shaped their response instead of faith.

"Sometimes the greatest obstacle between us and what God wants to do in our lives is what we're afraid to lose."

Personal application: Is pride preventing forgiveness? Is comfort preventing service? Is the desire for control preventing trust?

The question: What are you protecting that is preventing you from surrendering?

III. GOD'S PURPOSE PREVAILS OVER MAN'S PLANS |

John 11:49–54

Caiaphas argued that one man should die for the people. He intended to remove Jesus as a perceived threat; John reveals that Jesus would die to gather God's people into one. The leaders remained responsible for their plans, but their opposition could not overturn God's saving purpose.

Supporting Scriptures: Acts 2:23 • Romans 8:28 • John 10:18

Their plan was real. Their sin was real. But neither had the final word over what Christ's death would accomplish.

IV. THE APPROACHING PASSOVER | John 11:55–57

As people traveled to Jerusalem for Passover, the authorities ordered anyone who knew Jesus' whereabouts to report Him. The timing points us toward the meaning of His coming sacrifice.

THE FIRST PASSOVER — Exodus 12

God instructed Israelite households to take a lamb without blemish, sacrifice it, and place its blood on their doorposts. The blood marked their homes when judgment came through Egypt.

THE FULFILLMENT — JESUS CHRIST

The Passover lamb pointed forward to Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God. His blood would be shed at the cross, securing redemption for all who believe in Him.

"They were preparing for the Passover while the true Passover Lamb was walking among them!"

Supporting Scriptures: Exodus 12:5–13 • John 1:29 • 1 Corinthians 5:7

WHAT THIS PASSAGE REVEALS

• The same miracle can produce very different responses.
• Fear and attachment to status can keep us from surrendering to Jesus.
• God's saving purpose prevails even through human opposition.
• Jesus willingly gave His life; His death was not a defeat.
• The Passover points to Christ, whose sacrifice brings forgiveness and eternal life.

THE QUESTION THAT REMAINS

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

Will you only talk about Him? Will you only ask Him to fix what hurts? Or will you place your life in His hands?

"The cross was not the end of His story. And through faith in Him, your past does not have to be the end of yours!"

The One who called Lazarus from the grave would Himself rise again. Because He lives, forgiveness, a new beginning, reconciliation, and hope are possible.

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