



INTRODUCTION

In the days and weeks preceding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the high priest Caiaphas found his way into the story. He had an opportunity to stand in the presence of the Savior of the world, but refused to abandon his quest for control and surrender to his Creator. It's easy to dismiss Caiaphas as a fool. But we're also prone to resisting God and putting something else in his place.

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

46 *But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 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. 48 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."

49 *Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all!*

50 *You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."*

51 *He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take his life. **John 11:45-53***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one area of your life that you feel in control of right now? Why do you feel like you have that area in order?
2. During the message, we said, "Christians often resist the God we say we trust." Talk about a time you saw a Christian resisting God. Did that person's behavior influence your view of God? If so, how?
3. Talk about a time when saying yes to God would have cost you something. What did you do? What happened?
4. Read John 11:47–53. Caiaphas, the chief priests, and the Pharisees worried about losing their temple and their nation because of Jesus. What are some things you worry about losing because of Jesus?
5. What area of your life feels chaotic right now? What would it look like for you to say yes to God in that area?
6. Are you resting or wrestling with God right now? If you're wrestling with him, what is one thing you can do this week to move toward resting with him? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

There's a little Caiaphas in each of us. We try to preserve whatever it is we've replaced God with in our lives—reputation, relationships, position, beauty or standard of living. But those things are already diminishing in value. Generally, your greatest regrets are connected to attempts to preserve something that isn't even a part of your life anymore. Pressure to preserve the little gods will eventually drive you to extremes that harm you or others.

Little gods always *disappoint*. Little gods always *disappear*. What's the point in serving a little God if this is true?

While saying YES to God will cost you something, saying NO will always cost you more, INCLUDING what you put in place of God in the first place.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." John 10:17–18