Crossroads International Church Matthew Lyle

Series: Believing CHRIST: Responding to John’s Gospel 2024-03-17

**Evaluating the Evidence: Responses to Lazarus’ Resurrection**

***John 11:45-57***

I. Many Jews believed in him as Christ (45)

 A. Because of what Jesus Did The seven sign of John: Water to wine, the Official's son healed,

Paralytic healed, Feeding 5,000, Walking on water,

Healing blind man, and Raising Lazarus.

 B. Because of what Jesus Said

"I am the bread of life" (6:35): Jesus is essential for spiritual sustenance; those who believe in him will never spiritually hunger or thirst.

"I am the light of the world" (8:12) Jesus brings spiritual illumination, guiding away from darkness; those who follow Him shall not walk in spiritual darkness.

"I am the door [of the sheep]" (10:7) Through Jesus, believers find safety and salvation; He is the entry to eternal life, guarding His flock with loving care.

"I am the good shepherd" (10:11, 14) Jesus cares for His followers like a shepherd, willing to sacrifice Himself for their protection and guidance.

"I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25) In Jesus, believers find eternal life; He is the source of resurrection, promising life beyond death for those who trust.

 C. Expectations as the Messiah / Christ: Defeat Israel's Enemies, Restore the Davidic Kingdom (Isa 11:1),

 Usher in Peace and Justice (Isa 2:4), Restore the Temple, Gather the Exiles (Isa 11:11-12), and Spiritual

 Renewal and Redemption (Jer 31:31-34).

II. Others were skeptical and sought out expert advice (46)

 A. Pharisees were the recognized experts in knowledge\

 B. The Bible calls us to be skeptical and to “not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world (1 John 4:1)

III. The experts got it wrong (47-48)

 A. The Pharisees' shortcomings blinded them from seeing Jesus as “Christ”

 B. Instead, they were focused on protecting their own place of privilege

 **The Pharisees’ fear of losing their privileged position**

 **resulted in them forgetting God’s promises of a Messiah**

IV. The Chief Priest devised a new plan (49-52)

 A. The Chief Priest changed the reason for seeking to kill Jesus

 B. The Chief Priest declared “it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”

**God used those who RESISTED him, to REVEAL his plan**

V. But it was still God’s Plan (53-54): God’s plan would go ahead on God’s timing, not man’s.

VI. Looking for Jesus (55-57): Many Jews in Jerusalem to purify themselves for the Passover are looking for Jesus. They are contrasted with the Pharisees who are looking for Jesus to arrest him.

**Why Does God Have a Plan?**

God's plan for salvation is not a matter of necessity for God but rather an expression of His love, justice, and desire for a restored relationship with humanity.

Love: The Bible teaches that God is love (1 John 4:8) and that His love for humanity is so deep that He desires to save us from the consequences of sin (John 3:16). Salvation, then, is an expression of God's love for us.

Justice: God is also just, meaning that He upholds what is right and fair. Sin separates humanity from God (Isaiah 59:2), and justice demands that sin be dealt with. God's plan for salvation through Jesus Christ allows for both justice (sin is punished through Jesus' sacrifice) and mercy (we can be forgiven and reconciled to God).

Relationship: God's desire for a relationship with humanity is central to His plan. Sin broke the perfect relationship between God and humanity, and salvation through Jesus Christ restores that relationship for those who accept it. It allows us to have fellowship with God (1 Corinthians 1:9).

Free Will: God's plan also respects human free will. Salvation is offered to all, but each person can accept or reject it. God's plan provides the opportunity for everyone to choose Him and receive salvation.

In summary, God's plan for salvation demonstrates His love, justice, desire for relationship, and respect for human free will. It is not that God "needs" a plan for salvation, but rather that His plan manifests His character and desire to redeem and restore humanity to Himself.

**What is God’s Plan?**

God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to die for our sins and rise again, defeating death. By believing in Jesus and accepting His sacrifice, we can be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God. This salvation is a gift of grace, not earned by our actions but received through faith.

To enter this salvation, one must repent of their sins, confess Jesus as Lord, and be baptized, symbolizing a new life in Christ. Upon this confession, we receive the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live in obedience and love. The saved are called to follow Christ, grow in faith, and share His message of hope with others. This plan of salvation offers eternal life with God, reconciling humanity to Him and fulfilling His desire for a restored relationship with His creation.