

“WANTED: Jesus!”

John 11:45-57, Questions about Jesus’ claims.

1. Do you believe these claims, and who will you tell about them?

John 11:45-46, Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. ⁴⁶ But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

- You can believe, or not believe, what you’ve seen.
- You control how widespread the claims of Jesus go.
- Today’s Question: who, in your circle of influence, would enjoy hearing about the claims of Jesus?

2. What will happen if everyone believes the claims of Jesus?

John 11:47-48, Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸ If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

- The evidence for belief was obvious, even to His opponents.
- If everyone believes ... the culture is changed!
- Today’s Question: Who “loses” if our culture is changed by the power of Christ?

3. What’s the point of these claims?

John 11:49-52, Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, “You don’t know what you’re talking about!

⁵⁰ You don’t realize that it’s better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.”

⁵¹ He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. ⁵² And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.

- Plot twist: Jesus’ death would help people! Yes, but not how the leaders imagined.
- Jesus died, “once for all.” Hebrews 10:10, For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.
- Today’s Question: Is Jesus still the answer for our world?

4. What consequences came to Jesus because of His claims?

John 11:53-54, So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death.

⁵⁴ As a result, Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

- The claims of Jesus had life-and-death consequences. They still do.
- Ministry has to adjusted to account for local situations, in this case Jesus had to stop public ministry, and focused instead on his inner circle.
- Today's Question: What changes should we make to become better followers of Christ?

5. What is the public reputation of Jesus?

John 11:55-57, It was now almost time for the Jewish Passover celebration, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several days early so they could go through the purification ceremony before Passover began.

⁵⁶ They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, "What do you think? He won't come for Passover, will he?"

⁵⁷ Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.

- People, in every generation and culture, are striving for purity.
- People, in every generation and culture, are looking for a person to help them.
- Today's Question: What's the "chatter" out there about Jesus? Are people looking for Him today?

MAIN POINT: 1 Peter 3:11, 15, "Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it ... worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it."

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we live in a world full of questions and people who ask those questions. We know You are 'the answer.' Connect us, please, to others in such a way that we're ready to give an answer for the hope within us, that can be theirs also. In Jesus' name, amen."