

# What Do You Think?

In John 11:41-42 “They removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” Think about it... Jesus does not do for man what man can do for himself. He could have removed the stone off the tomb with a word. There is much that God expects us to do for ourselves. We are not puppets in the hand of God. Because of “the people standing around” is why Jesus prayed aloud to God. God hears, believes in, and supports Jesus in all He does. Jesus does for man what man cannot do for himself.

In John 11:43-45 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” There is no doubt who spoke the words “Lazarus, come forth.” (See John 5:28-29). The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” This terminology is clear, Lazarus was immobilized. It’s possible they wrapped each leg separately. Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what Jesus had done, believed in Him. They “saw,” and that means they were captivated by what He had done.

There is no amount of miraculous works that can convince a person who refuses to believe.

In John 11:47-50 we read “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.” A miracle of this magnitude warrants quick action. Rather than think about the signs and the implications involved, they admit the signs and seek to squelch the popularity of Jesus. Their grip on the throat of the Jewish people is loosening. “If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” Amen! Let ALL believe in Jesus! They saw Jesus as a threat to public safety and security. But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.” Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas and was a government appointed High Priest. He served from 18-36 AD. Some have said when John wrote “that year” it indicates that he was appointed in that year. The statement most likely means he was High Priest the year Jesus was put to death. It seems Caiaphas is “seeing” the propitiation of Jesus death.

In John 11:51-54 we read Caiaphas did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. God “inspired” Caiaphas to say what he said. So, from that day on they planned together to kill Jesus. All they really heard was: “Jesus has to die.” They did not understand Caiaphas’ words as a prophetic utterance. Therefore, Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples. Opposition to the message being preached by Jesus has elevated. The next time Jesus interacts with the Jews will lead only to Calvary.

In John 11:55-57 the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves. When a person left the country and came back, then they were required to purify themselves. People were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?” There is no way the Jewish leaders can avoid the popularity of Jesus. There is discussion about His whereabouts. Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, that person was to report it, so that they might seize Him.

The word is out – Jesus is a “marked man” by the Sanhedrin. What do you think? Do you want to associate with a “marked man” like Jesus?

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** ...when **we** can!

**Bible Study:** Consider your study of God’s Word (**2 Timothy 2:15**) Make time to learn Scripture that may apply to your life today...

**NMCCH:** For pick up Wednesday, October 7, collecting canned pears and pancake syrup.

— THANK YOU for reading!