



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 11:45-57
From Sermon 6.16.24

Read *John 11:45-57*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With this pinnacle of miracles now complete, the reactions begin to roll in. Only a minority of those who witnessed the resurrection will come to faith in Christ. The rest run to the leaders and reveal Jesus' whereabouts. The two historically arguing groups in Israel unite in their hatred and malice toward Christ. This is also a snapshot of today's world and culture that wants to silence the true church and the Word of God.

1. When we keep teaching that Jesus demands a verdict from all men, that also includes Jesus elicits a reaction from all people as well. List some of the many reactions we find to the miracle at Bethany. Various Answers. Include: Conversion. Stunned. Grateful. Curious. Fearful. Hostile.

2. Lazarus' resurrection also resurrects our "Escalation pattern" in the worldly warfare. Review:

Persuade = Giving the opposing side or view. Making points using emotion or tradition.

Argue = Discrediting their opponent and dissecting their points and words.

Insult = Name calling. Misinformation. Labeling as an enemy and a threat.

Legislate/Threaten—*Acts 4:15-21 & 5:27-28 & 40*

Injure & Destroy = Violence, imprison, exile, torture, execute.

2a. How do you see this playing out in Christ's ministry? It always began with questioning Jesus' authority and an appeal to Moses and the Law. When Jesus wouldn't change His message, they called Him names and mocked His heritage. As Jesus continued, they prohibited anyone from following Him with the cost of excommunication (*John 9:22*). Thinking they were acting on their own wisdom, the religious authorities had Jesus arrested and crucified.

3. On Sunday, the phenomena was pointed out that, when it comes to Jesus, even feuding groups will come together to silence the Truth. What two groups now form an alliance? The Sadducees (liberals) and the Pharisees (conservatives). [Later, at the numerous trials of Jesus = Pilate & Herod. See *Luke 23:12*. In our day—Sunni/Shiite Islam. Social activists that would never normally align. See *Psalms 2:1-3*]

4. Within the escalation pattern, excuses come at each level. What excuses for removing Jesus and Lazarus did we see? Worst case scenarios & misinformation (emotion). The whole nation will be lost. All the people will be led astray. The Romans would come and destroy the temple and Sanhedrin power.

5. The enemies of Christ then employed expediency (what solves the problem fastest) and pragmatism (whatever works must be best) to justify anything. Doing so causes them to commit sins equal to what they accuse Jesus of. Name some of those. Lies. Covet. Idolatry. Abandoning Scripture, Law, and doctrine

5a. Examples of the same sin today? Redefine sin to "reach more people". Abandoning doctrine to avoid division. Ignoring clear scripture to be politically correct and inclusive. Corporate church structure.