

Day 4. John 11:45-57

INTERPRETATION – WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

The irony in verse 47 is that the Jews had been asking for signs. Now that Jesus performed the greatest miracle – bringing someone back to life – they can't handle it. Read Romans 1:18 and explain what unrighteous people do with truth. *Suppress the truth*

What is the political situation in verse 48 and why is the Sanhedrin (the council) nervous? *They don't want a political Messiah to start a movement against Roman occupation, because they might be crushed by the Romans in response.*

God supersedes Caiaphas and has him speak prophetically and unwittingly use substitutionary language. Read verses 50-52 and summarize what you learn. *One man should die for the people, and Jesus would die for all people as a substitute*

Now read these related passages about substitutionary atonement and explain how it relates to this passage.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *Jesus had no sin, yet on the cross he took our sin so we could have his righteousness (substitution)*

1 Peter 2:24 – *Jesus paid for our sins by his death on the cross*

You can learn more by watching a short video here:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/substitutionary-atonement.html>

John 11:52 is talking about gathering in as one body those that have been born again (born from above), no matter if they are Jews or Gentiles. Read Ephesians 2:11-18 and explain how Christ's death brings all believers together as one family. *The Gentiles had no hope because they were not part of the promise or covenant to Abraham. But now through Jesus' sacrifice, he has broken down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile, bringing peace. Through the cross he reconciles us all to God and we all have access to the Father through the Spirit.*

This is the third Passover (verse 55) mentioned in the book of John. This will be the Passover when Jesus dies as the Passover Lamb to save the people from their sins. What are the responses of the people in Jerusalem as they awaited the Passover? *They were looking for Jesus. The chief priests and Pharisees made plans to arrest him.*

Can you summarize in your own words what this section means?

Answers will vary. The high priest prophesied that Jesus would be a substitutionary atonement for the people, and not for the Jews only, but also for the Gentiles.