



Blackfoot

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Caiaphas' Prophecy

By Bill Sexton

John 11:47-53, "Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."

1. The prophesying of this "high priest," one of the "council," among Pharisees, is somewhat difficult to understand. How could a wicked man, one set on getting rid of Jesus the Son of God, speak something that could be called prophesy?
2. Yet, if and when we understand it, we see another aspect of God's power and wisdom in making known His will and assuring that ultimately, it'll be done!

We are told: "this spoke he not of himself" meaning rather that God used his mouth to utter a truth, even though the man meant something very evil and different from what the truth was. He pointed to the need to eliminate Jesus the Son of God, sacrifice him, for their political good. God shows that He was to be sacrificed, but for the spiritual salvation of all people. Listen to others comment on this:

- Zerr says, "No mere human being especially a wicked man like Caiaphas, would or could make such a grand statement as this verse." (Bible Commentary by E. M. Zerr, Vol. 5, page 236). Another has said, "He meant nothing more than that the way to prevent the apprehended ruin of the nation was to make a sacrifice of the Disturber of their peace. But in giving utterance to this suggestion of political expediency, he was so guided as to give forth a divine prediction of a deep significance; and God so ordered it that it should come from the lips of the high priest for that memorable year, the recognized head of God's visible people." (Commentary on the Whole Bible, by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, page 1054)
- "The conclusion suggested by the High priest was that Jesus should be sacrificed for the people. The people were following Jesus in such numbers that the leaders feared two things. The Romans might conclude that Jesus was arousing the people to riot. The Romans would, therefore, move in and disperse the people, taking away even what little liberty they had as a conquered nation. The Romans might blame them, the present leadership, and remove them from power. The thought proposed was that it was better for Jesus to die than for the people to perish. Jesus should be sacrificed and killed in order to save the people."
- "The mystery of the conclusion was astounding. Note that the High Priest was being used as a spokesman by God: 'This spake he not of himself.' He was predicting the death of Jesus Christ. He proclaimed that Jesus should die for the people and be sacrificed in order to save the people...." (The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible, Vol. 5, Page 223)
- "As Balaam and Nebuchadnezzar and even Pharaoh had uttered unconscious or unwilling prophecies, and as in all genuine prophecies there are meanings meant by God beyond what the utterer of them

at all conceived possible." (The Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 17, pages 98-99)

Yes, beloved, Jesus did die for all, but not for the reason his opponent had in mind. Yet, God used this ungodly man to speak a truth even he was unaware of and had no intension of making. What a God we serve, having as a heavenly Father. Let us always manifest our respect for Him. Let us be faithful all our life.

Notes by Ross Ward

This was an obscure passage in my personal studies, but I think we see the profound nature of it and the ability of God to even use the enemies of the kingdom fulfill his purpose through Jesus. This is among many evidences that we find in the bible.

- Jesus proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that he was the one prophesied, the prophet they were waiting on, the Messiah.
- Jesus proved the Old Testament prophets were of God by fulfilling these prophecies.
- Jesus proves that the Bible is truly inspired by God, for no human could make such prophecies nor could they successfully attempt to fulfill of their own will.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Ray & Ginger are visiting family in Boise, returning home this week
- David & Catherine will be traveling to Georgia this week
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, starting in-home rehab
- Cameron Bauman brain tumor and radiation treatments
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Tom Mitchell

Lord's Table – Ray Mitchell
– Tom Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – Tom Mitchell

Invitation – David Porter

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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