

Lesson 5: Rejection

Today's Bible Story

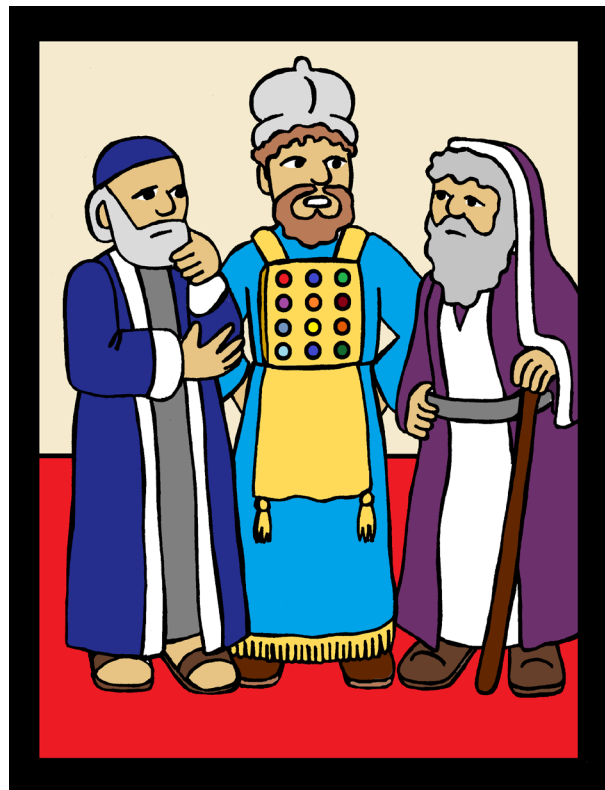
Bethany, the town where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived, was not far from the city of Jerusalem. Many there had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. When crowds learned that Jesus was coming up to Jerusalem for the Festival of Passover, many people came to see him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

So the Pharisees gathered the chief priests and the Jewish council to discuss what should be done. They asked, "What are we to do? For this man Jesus performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will start to believe in him. But not only that, if this man Jesus causes a riot, the Romans will be angry. They will send their soldiers to come and take away both our council and our nation."

At that point, one of the members of council stood up and called for their attention. His name was Caiaphas, and he was serving as the high priest that year. He said, "You people know nothing at all. Don't you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people instead of our whole nation being destroyed?"

Caiaphas did not say this of his own accord, but — being high priest that year — he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one all the children of God. So on that day the council made plans to put him to death.

Many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover festival to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and gossiping to one another as they stood in the temple, asking, "What do you think? Will Jesus come to the feast at all?" For the chief priests and the Pharisees had already given orders that if anyone knew where Jesus was, they should tell the authorities, so that they might arrest him.



From John 11:45-57

Bible Rhyme

After raising Lazarus,
news of Jesus caused a fuss!
Many to his side had hurried;
others had become quite worried.

The council in Jerusalem
argued what to do with him.
Some were scared and some annoyed,
worried they would be destroyed!

Caiaphas stood up and said
they'd be safer if Jesus was dead.
"If he lives, we all will fall.
He must die to save us all!"

Many people trusted in Jesus and followed him. Others rejected Jesus and were against him.

In the Bible, the opponents of Jesus were part of several different groups and are described with many different names. Unscramble the letters below to discover some of these names.

1) C I R S B E S

2) E S H A R P I S E

3) D A S E D U C E S

4) S H I G T H E P R I S

5) D E N N A S H R I

6) D O S H E R A N I

7) W A L R E Y S

8) M A S R O N

The Bible shows that not everyone in these groups were the same. Some did not go along with the others in their group. They were brave enough to stand apart and show their faith in Jesus.

Look up these verses to learn the names of some people who dared to be different.



Luke 23:50-51



Acts 10:1-2



John 19:39-40



Luke 8:3



Acts 23:6

Questions to Discuss

- Why is it so hard not to go along with others in a group, even when you know they are wrong?
- Why is it important to stand up for our faith and not be ashamed to say we believe in Jesus?