

Message 6-14-20 John 10:24 -12:43
6-13-20 OUR LORD'S STRUGGLES AND CONFLICTS WITH LEADERS

Intro: So often one of the hardest things in preaching is to decide on what to preach about. So, when I come up with a blank, I always know there is one subject you cannot go wrong about. It is an infinite subject and the main theme of all preaching. That subject is **JESUS**.

This morning I am going to take a rather long passage of Scripture and we are going to read it and I will make commentary on it as we go. Our focus is on Jesus.

Often, when things are not going well in my life, when I have conflicts with people, when I face trials and difficulties, I only have to meditate on what our Lord went through when He came to this planet, and suddenly my problems fade away.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Our Lord had absolutely nothing to gain by coming to this planet. He gave His life as a propitiation for our sins. Now when you get discouraged, when things are not going right in your life, consider Him, think on Him, think about Him. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN?

As I read the gospels it amazes me to see the hardening process that the Jews went through in rejecting our Lord. The Contradiction of sinners that our Lord had to endure.

I. OUR LORD'S CONFLICTS WITH THE LEADERS WHO SCRUTINIZED HIM.

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Note: How these religious leaders came to our Lord with a superior attitude. They came to interrogate Him and to intimidate Him.

- 1. They accused Him. It was His fault that they doubted, because He didn't say what they wanted Him to say but He spoke the truth.**
- 2. Tell us plainly, they said. In this passage He could not be any plainer.**

NOTE: The fault is with them because they didn't understand what the Scriptures taught about their Messiah. They knew He would be a man, but they did not understand His divine nature, and so even today His person is confused.

It is amazing how we read into the Scripture what we want and then get upset when we learn we are wrong. As if we could teach God a few things about what He wrote.

HOW LONG DO YOU MAKE US DOUBT THEY SAID.

II. HERE JESUS REVEALS THE TRUE FAULT OF HIS OPPOSITION.

1. Their problem was their unbelief.

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Our actions speak louder than our words for good or bad.

Hitler signed an agreement with Britain that he would not invade Poland. In 1938 the prime minister of England, Neville Chamberlain, came back from a meeting in Munich Germany with Hitler, bragging about this peace treaty. He made a peace treaty that stipulated Hitler could have Czechoslovakia if Hitler promised not to invade Poland. When he stepped off of the airplane when he arrived in England, he held up the piece of paper that contained the peace treaty. He then proclaimed to the press, "I have secured PEACE IN OUR TIME."

Jesus' his works spoke for themselves. How could a liar heal people, raise the dead, heal the Blind, etc.?

2. It was supernatural that these people rejected Christ.

John 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

The problem was a spiritual problem and this is the same problem today.

Christ's sheep hear his voice. Why do some not believe?

Often I wish I could twist someone's arm to believe, but I can't! If a person is not one of our Lord's sheep he will not hear!

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. Jesus tells them plainly who He is and where He came from:

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

The problem they had was that they would not believe and accept who Jesus was.

He claimed to be the son of God.

He claimed equality with God the Father.

No man could pluck them out His hand nor His Father's hand. They worked together as one.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

They said, tell us plainly who you are. Here He tells them and now look at what they do!

II. THE FALSE VERDICT OF OUR LORD'S CRITICS AND EXAMINERS.

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

They understood what He taught perfectly well. There was no misinterpreting what He said.

They could not accept what He said. That was the problem. It was the truth.

They could not and would not believe that the Messiah could be both God and man. THIS IS STILL WHAT THE RELIGIOUS JEWS SAY.

ONE RABBI WRITES: In answer to a question posed by a Christian as to why the modern Jews do not accept that Jesus was their Messiah:

We do not accept the notion that Scripture "foretells" that G-d would robe Himself in flesh. We believe that this idea is the very embodiment of idolatry, and we must give our very lives to make a stand against it. as indeed we Jews have always done throughout the ages. This is the first and main

reason why Jews like myself do not accept Jesus as the messiah is a v e r y basic one/

NOTE WHEN HE PREACHED HIS EQUALITY WITH THE FATHER :

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

This was blasphemy in their minds. They would rather believe that He did miracles by the power of the devil than to believe He was God in the flesh.

HE SAID, I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE!

Some say Jesus never meant this. If that be the case than why did He not apologize right after making this statement.

III. A CHANCE FOR JESUS TO APOLOGIZE AND CLARIFY HIS TEACHING BUT HE DOES NOT:

Let's see what He says,

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

1. IF MOSES WAS IN THE PLACE OF GOD TO PHARAOH THAN WHY WAS JESUS WRONG TO SAY WHAT HE SAID?

Exodus 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Jesus was a prophet like unto Moses, yet without sin or error.

Jesus is called the Word of God the Word made flesh..

Did Moses do greater Miracles?

If Moses was made a god unto Pharaoh and he but reflected the Word or proclaimed the Word, how did Jesus blaspheme when He was that WORD made flesh? He was GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.

This was His explanation.

2. THEY SHOULD BELIEVE HIS WORKS. THEY AUTHENTICATED HIS WORDS.

John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

John 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

Wrong Answer. Jesus did not apologize for what He said, He backed it up.

They were looking for Him to be a Jerry Falwell and apologize. Or a spinless politician that so often has to apologize when they offend someone with the truth.

Amazing how the world loved leaders like Bill Clinton, Obama and so many others who lie and lie and lied.

But anyone that tells the truth is crucified. Are we not being primed to receive the anti Christ, who will deceive the world? He is a liar, and the father of liars. The world will love him.

Can you not see we are being lied to? The world is lying continually to us and we tolerate it, but let a preacher preach the truth and everyone gets upset.

OUR LORD'S ESCAPE FROM HIS MURDERERS.

IV. Jesus Sought Refuge From His Persecutors on the other side of the Jordan:

John 10:40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

John 10:41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

John 10:42 And many believed on him there.

Note: In this remote country place John the Baptist was well received and so it is that Jesus is now received and many believe on Him.

It was just common sense. The purpose of miracles was to authenticate a message. I have no need to perform miracles, because my message is not a new message it is just a reiteration of the same message that has been authenticated down through the ages. Jesus came with a new message, and therefore you would expect Him to authenticate that message with miracles. This is the purpose of miracles.

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Deuteronomy 18:21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

Deuteronomy 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

The miracles and signs that followed authenticated the message of the prophet.

V. The Incident Of Lazarus: A Call For The Lord to Come And Heal Him. Jesus proves who His divine nature and authority.

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

John 11:2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

John 11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

John 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

- 1. Why did they send for Him? No doubt hoping He would come and heal him.***
- 2. Notice that none of them were married, they dwelt together, though, in unity.***

It is an unusual thing that 2 sisters and a brother would get along so well that they lived together. The world is crying out for unity and peace, and without the Lord and a spirit of godliness, carnal men cannot dwell together in unity. Not even families.

3. The sickness, Jesus said, was not unto death.

There is a sickness unto death.

There is a sickness not unto death. Jesus was going to illustrate to all that He had power over death, so this sickness was to bring glory to God.

4. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters.

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

John 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

He purposely did that so Lazarus would die, so He could resurrect him.

- 5. You will note: The Lord did not come when He was called.
We so often expect God to do what we want and think is best.
So today we call upon the Lord to do what we wish or think best and
sometimes He carries to accomplish something better.**

So often in prayer we pray for one thing and God gives us another. We are tempted to think God has abandoned us, but He has not.

Remember the verse that says,

Rom. 8:28 All things work together for good for those who love God

VI. The Lord Reveals His plan to manifest His glory and power by demonstrating His power over death.

John 11:7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

John 11:8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

John 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

John 11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

John 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

John 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

John 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

John 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

- 1. Our Lord's goal was to get people to understand who He was and get them to believe in Him**

In the previous passage they took up stones to stone the Lord because He proclaimed His equality with God the Father

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Now our Lord will do the greatest Miracle of all and there will be no excuse to disbelieve Him, yet many would still reject Him.

When certain people are filled with hate, they will resort to anything to get their way.

Today we are seeing this same blind hatred in our nation. Never have I seen such hatred for conservatives, Christians, and those who hold to biblical and traditional values. We are seeing the spirit of the anti-christ rise before our very eyes.

2. *Jesus called death sleep for those who He loved.*

The ancient greeks called their graves Dormitories, a place of sleep. Yet no man has been able to awaken a person from the dead, except the Lord.

3. *No one was more misunderstood than our Lord. Notice how He struggles to get men to believe in Him.*

John 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

John 11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

VII. *Notice how the plot thickens as we see the wheat and tares dwell together but they cannot deny His power.*

John 11:17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

John 11:18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: (About 2 miles away not far)

John 11:19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Jesus purposely tarried two days. The trip was two days, so when the messenger came to his door Jesus waited two days so that he would be sure that Lazarus was in the grave already at least 4 days. In that climate and culture they could not wait to bury their dead. It was their custom to bury their dead no later than the day after their death if embalmed.

Note, how those who hated Jesus came to the funeral, our Lord's enemies.

Hard to believe that these, the persecutors of our Lord, were so intertwined with those who loved the Lord.

So it was with Nicodemus.

So it was with John. John 18:16 says that John knew the high priest Caiaphas.

So it is that those who were believers and the lost dwelt side by side.

V. Martha & Mary, though believers, still did not understand the power of the Lord over life and death:

John 11:20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

John 11:21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

John 11:22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

John 11:28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

John 11:29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

1. Notice how even those closest to the Lord did not understand.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

2. She believed he was the Christ but did not understand His divine nature and power.

How misunderstood our Lord was.

Consider, the claim that our Lord made. The Pharisees just tried to kill Him for claiming equality with God the Father, making Himself equal with God. Now our Lord claims power of life and death and even power to resurrect. Who has that kind of power but God himself? Why did the Jews not believe Him?

VII. Our Lord's Heartache is misunderstood, He wept because of their unbelief.

John 11:28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

John 11:30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

John 11:31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

John 11:32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

John 11:33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

John 11:34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

John 11:36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

John 11:37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

John 11:38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

John 11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

John 11:40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

John 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

1. *Again note their unbelief.*

John 11:32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

2. *Our Lord was vexed in His spirit because of their unbelief.*

He wept not for Lazarus but for the people because they should have rejoiced that He was there and believed in Him.

3. Notice how His accusers are always ready to indict Him.

John 11:37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

John 11:38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

4. Our Lord reveals his plan.

John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

John 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 11:43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

All this was done to get people to believe He was who He said he was.

THEY WANTED TO STONE HIM FOR MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL TO GOD.
NOW WHAT WILL THEY DO? WE WILL SEE.

VIII. SOME BELIEVED SOME STILL DOUBTED.

John 11:45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

John 11:46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

John 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

John 11:48 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.

John 11:49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

John 11:50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

John 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

John 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

They strengthened their resolve to get rid of Him.

They cared not for God and His purpose. All they cared about was their positions and personal safety.

THEY FEARED ROME MORE THAN GOD.

Imagine what more could Jesus have done than this.

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

One of the great mysteries in the Bible is how is it that Caiaphas could actually prophecy that it was necessary for one to die for the sins of the nation. He knew the prophecy that Jesus should die for the sins of the world and still did not believe?

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

Reminds me of the fact that just knowing the Bible or truth does not save you. The devil knows the Bible better than any of us and he is not saved.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

What hardness it is,

INVITATION:

What will it take for a person to believe?

Only a work of Grace in their heart.

Just preached at May Millers funeral, and there were many there who were not saved. They listened, most understood, but many still went away lost and without Christ. But how sad it is that they do not understand the gospel.

Some believe.

Others went their way and plotted how to get rid of Christ.

SAD COMMENTARY:

John 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

Jesus. No one was more misunderstood than He.

So it is today, for us who are saved we understand.

For the lost they still do not comprehend it, and we dwell together.

Our Lord's enemies came to the funeral.

So we have funerals we have weddings. We have gatherings together.

The Lost and saved dwell together. Our prayer is that more will believe and be saved.

INVITATION: Have you trusted Him?

6-14-20 Evening Message

I. Jesus Was Marked and could not openly walk among the Jews.

John 11:54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

John 11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

John 11:56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

John 11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

II. Mary Anoints Jesus And Judas Is Rebuked.

John 12:1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

John 12:2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

John 12:4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

John 12:5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

John 12:7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

John 12:8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

1. Jesus Rebuked Judas For Pretending To care for the poor.

Note: Often it is because of rebuke that a Judas will come out in the open.

Mark 14:4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

Mark 14:5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

Mark 14:6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

Mark 14:7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

Mark 14:8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

Mark 14:9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

- 2. It is never a waste to pour out our lives for the Lord.
Whatever sacrifices we make for Jesus are never wasted.***

This ointment was used for healing, burials, and expensive perfumes.

Some said it was a waste because no person got a benefit from this sacrifice.

We need to remember many of the Old Testament sacrifices were burned up completely, the priests did not eat of the sacrifice, no one person received any benefit from them. They were completely consumed and burnt up.

- 3. This may have been Mary's life's savings that she poured out at the feet of Jesus.***

III. THE PHARISEES EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING LAZARUS:

John 12:9 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

John 12:10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

John 12:11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

- 1. Do away with the evidence of our Lord's greatness.***

Imagine their hardness and wickedness.

- IV. NOTE: In these verses, note that the resurrection of Lazarus was not a small event. It created quite a stir, and in fact leading up to His crucifixion it looked like Jesus was going to be accepted by popular vote even though the leaders rejected Him.***

John 12:12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

John 12:13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

John 12:14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

John 12:15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

John 12:16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

John 12:17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

John 12:18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

John 12:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

We need to remember that the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead occurred not long before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

THIS WAS THE WEEK OF THE PASSOVER.

V. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MANY WOULD COME SEEKING TO SEE JESUS.

John 12:20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

John 12:21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

John 12:22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

Why the mention of this here?

I believe that it was because the disciples, in their minds, thought all the world would soon receive Christ.

It looked like nothing could stop His popularity.

It looked like the whole world would soon believe on Him.

VI. JESUS FORETELLS OF HIS DEATH.

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

John 12:29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

John 12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Imagine all the supernatural verifications of His ministry.

Miracles.

Voice From Heaven.

And yet many would not believe Him.

VII. A MAJOR QUESTION CONCERNING CHRIST:

John 12:34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

The Jews, to this day do not believe that the Messiah would first come as a suffering servant.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

VIII. A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE UNBELIEF OF THE NATION.

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

John 12:36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

What more could Jesus do?

IX. CHRIST'S REJECTION WAS FORETOLD IN SCRIPTURE.

John 12:38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

John 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

John 12:41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

There were many who believed on Christ.

Yet their faith could not outdo the animosity of the religious leaders.

There were more that rejected Him than believed on Him.

What was the problem?

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Many of the chief rulers believed Christ was the Messiah but they feared the other rulers and feared the loss of their positions.

So it is in many Bible colleges today, men who know that the colleges are going the wrong direction but still they want to keep their jobs.

So they do not buck the status quo.

It seems to be a pattern, that in religious circles those who have control are often the ones who are embedded into the political structure.

That structure for some reason always seems to breed corruption.

So the beat goes on with the leaders of our land. Corruption abounds.

While those who know the truth are quiet and passive about their opposition.

We are seeing this very thing happening in our country before our very eyes. Evil is prevailing and everyone is fearful to stand up and say anything for fear of their place and position.

Why are the ANTIFA's, the Abortion crowd, and the gay movement crowd all so militant in their causes while the average conservative is quiet in the background and says nothing in protest?

By and large God's people are quiet and peaceable people.

But God uses even evil men to do His bidding. I don't know if it is true or not, but I have heard rumors that the Hells angels, and other motor cycle gangs, are talking about riding over to Seattle and taking back.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Attributed to Edmund Burke.

Then, in a stunning turn of events, the City of Seattle made the decision to abandon the East Precinct and surrender the neighborhood to the protesters. "This is an exercise in trust and de-escalation," explained Chief Carmen Best. Officers and National Guardsmen emptied out the facility, boarded it up, and retreated. Immediately afterward, Black Lives Matter protesters, Antifa black shirts, and armed members of the hard-Left John Brown Gun Club seized control of the neighborhood, moved the barricades into a defensive position, and declared it the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone—even putting up a cardboard sign at the barricades declaring "you are now leaving the USA."

The Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone has set a dangerous precedent: armed left-wing activists have asserted their dominance of the streets and established an alternative political authority over a large section of a neighborhood. They have claimed de facto police power over thousands of residents and dozens of businesses—completely outside of the democratic process. In a matter of days, Antifa-affiliated paramilitaries have created a hardened border, established a rudimentary form of government based on principles of intersectional representation, and forcibly [removed](#) unfriendly media from the territory.

The Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone is an occupation and taking of hostages: none of the neighborhood's residents voted for Antifa as their representative government. Rather than enforce the law, Seattle's progressive political class capitulated to the mob and will likely make massive concessions over the next few months. This will embolden the Antifa coalition—and further undermine the rule of law in American cities.

Now when the government does nothing to restrain evil, God often uses other evil men to punish evil men. Now the motorcycle gangs are talking about going in and taking back the Autonomous zone. It is interesting as to what we will see happen.

Again, even Satan's kingdom is divided sometimes. Evil breeds more evil.

But when the government that God ordained to restrain evil does nothing God punishes that wicked government.

Article I just read:

Seattle, which has long been Antifa central, is having a more-than-curious week. The rash of protests and nights of looting and riots naturally visited the west coast city, where progressivism and its infinite causes always find a home. Early on, as protesters surrounded a downtown police precinct, the cops — presumably in the interest of keeping things peaceful — abandoned their station.

That station did not suffer the fate of one in Minneapolis, which was actually burnt down, but it was boarded up and the police went elsewhere. However, when they decided to try to come back, they found that the neighborhood had been dramatically altered. The area around the police building, a full six city blocks, had been — it's difficult to find the correct term here — taken over, invaded and occupied, released from U.S. sovereign control, by an assembly of activists, and renamed by some as the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ).

At first, they had their Utopia. The protesters even offered some of their food to the homeless. Yet the homeless took it all, leaving one disappointed occupier to tweet in anguish for immediate aid. Her plea had a Dickensian peal: "We need more food ... please if possible bring vegan meat substitutes, fruits, oats, soy products, etc. — anything to help us eat." These were solemn protesters, organic all the way to the revolution.

Seattle Police Assistant Chief Deanna Nollette and Assistant Chief Adrian Diaz are blocked by protesters from entering the newly created Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone in Seattle, on June 11. Jason Redmond/AFP

Things moved rather fast after that. The new "tenants" grabbed what they could to put up fences and barricades. Curiously for people one would assume would be innately pacifist, they also stationed armed guards, with fairly impressive weaponry, to keep people out.

One of the elements of taking over six full blocks of a modern city is that, along with the pavement and the streets, there are also people who live and work in the area. Not to worry: anyone who lives in CHAZ merely has to show the guards his or her identity papers to go to and from their homes or places of work. A minor inconvenience in a free society, I am sure all will agree. If you have identity papers, and you live or work in central Seattle, you merely show them to an assembly of strangers, some armed (and maybe hungry), in order to go about your business as a free citizen. Nothing could be more natural or liberating.

Meanwhile, there are also reports that within this freshly minted urban Eden, some measure of authority is showing itself. A local rapper, who's now known by the nickname "the Warlord of CHAZ," has effectively assumed responsibility for "policing" this no-police zone.

As rhapsodic as all this is, some questions arise, such as: if one self-nominated group can take over a part of a city, why can't another? Why can't every city have whole segments taken over by street gangs, protesters or anyone else with a mind to, as long as they chant about their worthy goals. I'm sure a declaration of a freedom zone in Toronto's Rosedale neighborhood would be a hit.

Does any cause amount to a right for people who don't live in an area to force those who do to prove it? What if someone with a different cause, but the same stringency of belief, wants to take over their newly "liberated" territory? Does one cause nullify the other? If not, why? After all, Antifa appears to have claimed the right to take over part the city not based on legal precedent or social contract, but on the simple fact that they fervently believe in what they are doing. In the interest of consistency, it would only be fair to allow anyone else with strong beliefs to do the same.

Another question: if a group takes over a part of a city, does that allow them to demand money from the business in that area to support the invasion? Some might call that extortion. Indeed, some are, following reports that Antifa members asked a business owner for \$500 to "finance community security and protection."

And if a group seizes a property from people living in it, do they have standing to issue demands before they give it back, as these activists have done? Small demands, like dismantle the police, eviscerate the court system and retry all violent offenders? What gives them standing to make any demands whatsoever? Is it because they are Antifa and, if so, who made Antifa God?

Are these questions impolite? There are many others of the same kind that could be asked of this particular situation. And they all illustrate that our institutions are delicate, and that in heated moments, people neglect or defy the standard codes of democracy.