

INTRODUCTION

- * The Gospel according to John: John's presentation of Jesus as the Son of God who became the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world, in order to strengthen and unify the church around this core belief.
- * THE LINE IN THE SAND ... Jesus declared: I am I AM. The Jews understood what Jesus was declaring: "You, being a man, make Yourself God!" Jesus responded: "Though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that in Me is the Father, and also I am in Him."
- * Jesus had performed undeniable works - including giving sight to a man born blind. This was a miracle that was unparalleled. He did what only the Creator could do! But, then He raised Lazarus from the dead ... and Lazarus had been dead four days!
- * What were the religious leaders to do? They had to decide. On which side of the line were they going to stand?
- * Today, we see the remarkable juxtaposition of results in choosing a side in this life and death decision!

INSTRUCTION**I. THE D_____ OF THE SANHEDRIN (11:45-57; 12:9-11)****A. They Chose to R_____ (11:45-57)**

1. THEIR P_____ (v. 47-52)
 - a. The Priests (v. 47-48)
 - b. The High Priest - Caiaphas (v. 49-52; cf. Daniel 9:25-26)

2. THEIR P_____ (v. 53-57)

B. They Chose to S_____ (12:9-11; cf. Romans 1:18-22; Acts 4:1-22; 5:12-42)

1. THEIR C_____:
2. THEIR C_____:

II. THE D_____ OF MARY (12:1-8)**A. The Setting (v. 1)****B. The Offering (v. 3)**

1. V_____ BY JUDAS (cf. Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1-2; Luke 22:31; Job 1:9; 2:5)
2. V_____ BY JESUS! (cf. Romans 8:31-34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2; Psalm 109:30-31)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? IS HE YHWH INCARNATE?
- * WHAT HAS GOD DONE IN YOUR LIFE THAT WOULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE?
- * ARE YOU WILLING TO SUFFER PERSECUTION FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST?
- * PERSECUTION MAY COME. "THEY" MAY SEEK TO STIFLE GOD'S WORD. BUT WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT BOTH THE WORD OF GOD - AND THE CHILD OF GOD - WILL ENDURE FOREVER!
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8; 2:13-16. Persecution of the church has existed from the time that Christ walked the earth. How can we be prepared for that time? What are verses of encouragement to help us through those times?