

THE GOSPEL STORY
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN – Good News for a Change
Pastor Ron Swor – 3.5.23
The Jesus Problem – John 11:45-57; part one

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. That's good news. But not everyone was happy. The choices some made put into motion the crucifixion of Jesus.

John 11:45-57

Someone once said, "We make our choices and then our choices turn around and make us."

All of us must answer the question: what do we do with Jesus? It's the "Jesus Problem." What are the common choices people make regarding Jesus?

1. People are conflicted about Jesus (vv.45-46)

- Some believed in Jesus...
- ...and some didn't believe in Jesus.
 - Both witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus with their own eyes.
 - It's the hardness of a human heart that rejects the lordship of Jesus.

2. People have conversations about Jesus (vv.47-52)

- Some people are fearful
 - The Sadducees – not spiritually minded
 - didn't believe in the Old Testament (except the Pentateuch)
 - didn't believe in angels, spirits or the resurrection
 - The Pharisees – strictly religious
 - believed in the Old Testament and oral tradition
 - Both had hatred toward Jesus that exceeded their hatred for each other
- Some people were calculated
 - Caiaphas the High Priest
 - God used his death statement as a prophecy

3. People are committed to be against Jesus (vv.53-54)

- They plotted to put Jesus to death
 - They thought if they took care of the "Jesus Problem" it would save their nation.
 - They were wrong!! Jesus rose from the grave.
 - The schemes continued after the resurrection – now aimed at His people.