

# WHEN JESUS COSTS TOO MUCH

JOHN 11:45-57

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: See Matthew 26: 1-5, fn 26:3. Caiaphas represents all of us who do not want any change or disruption in our lifestyles, but he took protecting the status quo to another level. God used the religious to crucify Jesus.

***YOUR SPIRITUAL HARDNESS IS EXPOSED.*** Costs can be money, time, worldly cares, or empty habitual religious activities. When you have placed any of these on “the throne of your life” to worship, you, like the Pharisees, will not come to Christ even if He performs miracles. (**John 11:45, 46, fn 11:45-53, Matthew 13:22, fn 13:22, Revelation 3:17 fn 3:17, James 4:3-6, fn 4:3, 4[2<sup>nd</sup>], James 4:4-7, 10, fn 4:6-7, 10**) *What will Jesus give you to meet the cost when you go out of your way to follow Him?*

***YOUR LIFESTYLE IS THREATENED.*** “Caiaphas was the leader of the religious group called the Sadducees. Educated and wealthy, they were politically influential in the nation. As the elite group, they were on fairly good terms with Rome. They hated Jesus because he endangered their secure life-styles and taught a message they could not accept.” See Chart on Caiaphas in Chapter 11 of the LASB. When your lifestyle owns you, God is not in first place in your life. (**John 11:47, 48, fn 11:48, Luke 18:18-30, fn 18:22-23, fn 18:26-30, Luke 18:9-14, fn 18:11-14, Psalm 49:1-20, fn 49:1-20**) *What in your lifestyle keeps Jesus from being on “the throne of your life”? How will you let your group encourage you in your relationship with Jesus Christ?*

***YOUR LEARNING AND TEACHING ARE WITHOUT CHRIST’S LIFE.*** The Jews believed that the high priest (Caiaphas) was the man closest to God and stood between them and God. As leader of the religious establishment in Jesus time, Caiaphas correctly prophesied that Jesus would die for all. Little did he comprehend, however, that Jesus would in fact be crucified to pay for the sins of the world. (**John 11:49-53, fn 11:51, fn 11:52, John 5:39-46, fn 5:39-40, fn 5:45-57, Matthew 11:25, fn 11:25, Acts 17:10-12, fn 17:11, John 7:10-18, fn 7:13, fn 7:16-18, Matthew 10:32, 33, fn 10:32**) *Why is it important that you not let anything or anyone stand between you and your relationship with Jesus?*

*Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*