

John 11⁴⁵⁻⁵⁷

When wicked words are transcendent truth

Divine irony in the plot to kill Jesus



Children's talk: What's this blue thing? Who's the inventor?

Introduction

Believers & tale-bearers (11⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶)

Irony with respect to the Council (11⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸)

In what they said - *Everyone will believe in him*

- *The Romans will come*

In why they said it - *Take away our place*

In how they said it - *Take away our nation*

Irony with respect to Caiaphas (11⁴⁹⁻⁵²)

In who he was - *High priest that year*

In what he said - *You know nothing at all*

- *One man should die for the people ...*

In why he said it - *It is better for you*

In when he said it - *Lazarus, come out ... I am the resurrection*

Irony with respect to God & the gospel

In what God says

In what we say

In what unbelievers say

Conclusion

Believers & purifiers (11⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷)



Questions answered

- What is irony?
- What was the function and composition of *the Council*? How did it generally function?
- What was ironic about the councillors saying "*everyone will believe in Him*"?
- What was ironic about the Council's concern about what the Romans might do if they let Jesus go on as He is doing?
- What was ironic about the Councillors being concerned about losing their *place*?
- What was ironic (or hypocritical) about the Councillors' concern about their *nation*?
- What was Caiaphas's position? What did this entail?
- What was ironic about Caiaphas's stinging criticism, "*You know nothing at all*"?
- What was super-ironic about Caiaphas's statement: "*one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish*"? What is ironic about God putting this on the lips of a man like Caiaphas?
- What was ironic about Caiaphas saying that this "*is better for you*"?
- What is ironic about his whole episode in light of the immediate context?
- What is ironic about the gospel?
- What is one way we can end up saying ironic things?
- Can we learn anything profound from unbelievers? How can irony come into this?



Something to pray about (and follow through with)

- Pray for wisdom to be alert when other people (especially unbelievers) say profound things that they might not even be aware of. Pray for grace to be able to explore this with them in a gracious way.