

April 5, 2020

A Week of Love - Part 2

John 12:9-11, “Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in Him.”

On the Sunday before His death, Jesus was staying with Simon the Leper in Bethany. He and the disciples would be going into Jerusalem soon to observe the Passover Week. News had spread that Jesus was there and the scripture says a large crowd came because of Him and they also wanted to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. But, did you see what v. 11 says? The chief priests were making plans to kill Lazarus as well. In other words, they had already made plans to kill Jesus and they just put Lazarus on the list too. What do you think about the “chief priests? They are supposed to be the ones who are being used to serve in the Temple, but instead they are going to have innocent blood on their hands. The tragedy is that they believe they were doing their “religious” duty. And herein lies the issue. God doesn’t want you to be “religious,” He wants a relationship with you. When you are trapped into the idea that doing all the laws will bring you salvation, you miss the whole purpose of what salvation is all about. Many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in Him!” Rom. 3:10a, “There is no one righteous, not even one.” Rom. 3:23, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Isa. 64:6a But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness deeds are like filthy rags.” Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Just a side note here; I think it is somewhat amusing that they think if they kill Lazarus he will stay dead this time. Jesus could raise him again if He chose to. In fact, even though they crucify Jesus, He conquered death and the grave. Now, why is all of this happening? The reason John explains in 1 John 2:2, “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” Jesus came to be the spotless lamb that was slain for us because of His great love for you and me. Everything God does comes from the motivation of love. Why? Because that is Who He is. God is love.

Thank You Lord for being love and sharing Your love with this world. It was the greatest sacrifice ever, but it brought the greatest reward ever. We can have forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life with You. Thank You Jesus! I praise Your Name! In Jesus Name, Amen