

Discussion Guide

"Maddening Rage Against The Lamb Of God" - John 11:45-53

Unedited AI-generated document from a sermon preached by Dr. Markj Beach

Opening Prayer

Take a moment to pray, asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand His Word and apply it to your lives.

Scripture Reading

Read John 11:38-53 together.

Introduction

This discussion guide explores themes from Dr. Beach's sermon on the opposition Jesus faced after raising Lazarus from the dead, and how God worked through even hostile human intentions to accomplish His plan of salvation.

Discussion Questions

Unbelievable Unbelief

1. What were the two different responses to Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? What does this teach us about how people respond to miracles and God's work today?
2. The Sanhedrin had access to scriptural prophecies (Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:5-6, 61:1) that should have helped them recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Why do you think they failed to connect these prophecies with Jesus' miraculous works?

3. In what ways do we sometimes demonstrate "unbelievable unbelief" in our own lives, even when evidence of God's work is before us?

The Maddeningly Rage

4. The religious leaders were more afraid of Rome than they were of God. What "Romes" do we fear more than God in our lives today?
5. The sermon states: "What am I living for? Some secular empire? Your best life now with health and wealth and whatever you can get out of it?" How does this challenge you to examine your own priorities?
6. How can fear of earthly consequences (like the leaders' fear of Rome) blind us to spiritual realities and opportunities?

The Prophetic Verdict

7. Caiaphas said, "It is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." How did God transform these words spoken from evil motives into prophetic truth?
8. The sermon highlights how "what Caiaphas means by it and what God intends by it are worlds totally apart." How have you seen God work through difficult or even hostile circumstances to accomplish His purposes?
9. What does it mean that Jesus "came in order to die" rather than death happening to Him accidentally?

The Call to Radical Faith

10. What does the sermon mean by calling us to "a blessed rage of faith" in contrast to the "maddening rage against the Lamb of God"?
11. How does Jesus' death fulfill the purpose of "gathering into one the children of God who are scattered abroad" (v. 52)?

12. The sermon mentions how the gospel reached even the "unlovable cannibals" (the Friesians). How does this challenge our view of who can be reached by the gospel today?

Application

13. How does this passage shape your understanding of Christ's suffering and its purpose?
14. In what specific ways can you demonstrate "radical faith" in your daily life this week?
15. How might remembering that God can work even through opposition and hostility change how you view current challenges to Christianity?

Closing Prayer

Close by thanking God for His sovereign plan of redemption, for Jesus' willingness to die for us, and ask for help to live with radical faith in a world that often rages against Him.