

Day Four

Jesus: Real, Relevant, Raw and Radical! Resistance is Futile

Luke 22:1-12(NLT) *"The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. ²The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people's reaction. ³ Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, ⁴ and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. ⁵They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. ⁶ So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around. ⁷ Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.'⁹ 'Where do you want us to prepare it?' they asked him. ¹⁰ He replied, 'As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, ¹¹ say to the owner, "The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' ¹² He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.' ¹³ They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there."*

Fear makes you act irrationally. It makes you do things that are utterly foolish, and it hinders clear thinking. When our security is threatened and we feel we are losing control, we grasp at anything that we assume will give us that sense of control again. The problem is that most of life is beyond our control. I know it appears that we have control, but if we are honest, we all have to admit that most things in life are not controllable. Enter the religious leaders of Jesus' day. They have had it with Jesus. They see Him as a threat. A threat to their influence and power. A threat to their way of life. A threat to the Temple, and a threat to their income.

Jews would pay a Temple tax. This was not just limited to the Jews who lived in close proximity to the Temple. So, needless to say, the Temple tax was the equivalent of millions and millions of dollars. Some Roman governors even attempted to pass laws against the Temple tax because of the amount of money that was flowing to the Temple from the surrounding provinces. For the Jewish leaders, Jesus was a threat that needed to be dealt with, all because of what they thought they might lose.

So, the plot thickens. The anger of the Jewish leaders is about to boil over. They have had enough of Jesus' meddling. So, instead of just simmering in their anger, they are now actively planning how to kill Jesus. Their only problem: the crowds. Unlike themselves, that would only draw crowds on special holidays and festivals, Jesus had

crowds everywhere He went. What was ironic about their anger towards Jesus is the fact that it was a miracle that pushed them over the edge. **John 11:43-53(NLT)** *"Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come out!'"* ⁴⁴*And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, 'Unwrap him and let him go!'"* ⁴⁵*Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.* ⁴⁶*But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.* ⁴⁷*Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. **'What are we going to do?' they asked each other. 'This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.'**"* ⁴⁹*Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, 'You don't know what you're talking about!'"* ⁵⁰*You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed.'* ⁵¹*He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation.* ⁵²*And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.* ⁵³*So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death."*

The problem with thinking that we are in control, is a false sense or feeling that we can manipulate circumstances to fit the outcome we desire. Here is the overstatement of the ages: "If we allow Him to go on like this." Really? If you allow Jesus? The leading priests and Pharisees are plotting. Satan is lying and deceiving. Judas is betraying and conniving. Yet Jesus is going about His business. It brings me incredible comfort to know that while all this evil is being plotted and planned, Jesus is doing what He always was going to do. Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare for the Passover meal. He gives them the details of who they need to follow (*the man carrying a pitcher of water*), who they will meet (*the owner of the house*), what they should say (*the Teacher asks, where is the guest room*) and what they will find (*upstairs guest room already set up*). **Luke 22:13(NLT)** *"They went off to the city and **found everything just as Jesus had said**, and they prepared the Passover meal there."*

Luke writes and gives us this detail for a reason. John, in writing, says that Caiaphas the high priest is telling everybody to shut up! He has a plan; just kill Jesus. Caiaphas, suffering from the same delusion, thinking he is in control, is simply prophesying according to John. Do you realize that it is futile to resist God's plan for your life? You might think you are in control, but the reality is none of us are really in control of the circumstances of life. Powerful nations at this very moment have been brought to their knees, shut down, all due to an unseen virus. What do we need to see?

No matter what is going on in the world, or what lies the devil is spreading, or evil people are plotting, or even a friend's betrayal, none of that is beyond your Father's knowledge. As a Christ follower, here's the good news: Jesus is going about His

business. And just like Peter and John, we must do what He tells us to do and we will find in the end, everything just as Jesus said...

Prayer:

- **Pray for God's Kingdom to rule your heart and mind.**
- **Admit honestly where you are trying to control instead of trust, and ask for forgiveness.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to submit to God's plan for your life.**
- **Pray for the people in the place that God has called you.**