**Faith Foundations 2025-2026**

**The Gospel of John (Part 2)**

**Session 3—John 11:45-12:11**

**By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus had performed the miracle that should have been (and actually was) the final proof that everyone needed that He was indeed the Son of God and the promised Christ. Many of the Jews believed in Him because He had done this, but many others did not, and among those who did not believe were the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus’ miracles did not convince them of His divinity; rather, they convinced them that He was a threat who needed to be removed at all costs. And this last and greatest miracle that Jesus had done finally spurred them to action.**

**1.) Read John 11:45-54. How did some of the Jews react to Jesus raising Lazarus? What did some of the other Jews do?**

**2.) What did the chief priests and Pharisees do in response to this news?**

**3.) What were the religious leaders afraid would happen if Jesus were allowed to continue His ministry, and why?**

**4.) What did Caiaphas say to the council? What did this mean he wanted to do?**

**5.) How was Caiaphas’ statement ironic, in light of what Jesus would soon do? What did he believe he was saying, and how did that contrast with what actually happened?**

**6.) According to verse 51, why did Caiaphas actually say these things, and what did his position as high priest have to do with it?**

**7.) According to verse 52, for whom would Jesus die? What did this mean?**

**8.) What did Jesus do in response to the religious leaders’ conspiracies against Him?**

**9.) Read John 11:55-57. What Jewish religious holiday was approaching? What were many Jews in the area doing to observe it?**

**10.) Whom did the Jews want to see while they were in Jerusalem? What were they asking themselves about Him, and why?**

**11.) What had the chief priests and Pharisees given the order to do, and why?**

**12.) Read John 12:1-9. When did these events take place? Which day of the week would this have been?**

**13.) Where did Jesus go, and what happened in this place? Who was there with Him?**

**14.) What did Mary do to Jesus? Why was this an extravagant gesture on her part?**

**15.) On what grounds did Judas object to Mary’s actions? What was actually motivating him?**

**16.) How did Jesus respond to Judas? What did He mean by this?**

**17.) How should Jesus’ attitude toward Mary’s actions guide us in our own financial priorities as Christians (especially regarding our worship and the poor)?**

**18.) How might this passage be abused to encourage a callous attitude toward the poor? How do we Christians avoid falling into this trap?**

**20.) Read John 12:9-11. Why did the large crowd of Jews come to Bethany? Whom did they want to see beside Jesus?**

**21.) What did the chief priests decide to do at this time, and why?**

**The stage was set: the Jewish religious leaders were ready to spring their trap on Jesus and finally end His challenges to their authority. They were even willing to kill an innocent man to prevent others from believing in Jesus. These plans showed that they really were not interested in the welfare of the nation: they were only interested in maintaining their authority and standing among the people.**

**Jesus, however, would not be so easy to defeat. He had amassed quite a following to Himself by this point, and His disciples would not allow the Jews to just come and get Him. They would need to be sneaky about it, and the next several chapters will show us exactly how they were able to get their hands on Jesus (which, of course, was all part of God’s plan in the first place).**