

What is at the heart of Christianity?

? Ritual ...

Requiem mass ...

? Rules ...

“thou shalt not ...”

– being good

? Representation [of current culture]

... (Sandi Toksvig)

Actually:

Jesus

... and his **death = John 11:50**

Plan

Reported speech of Caiaphas the High Priest

1. Why did he say this?
2. What did he say?
3. Why should we listen?

1. Why did he say this?

Q: His speech is a result of something.
What is it?

A#1: result of Jesus' success

- Jesus has just raised Lazarus!
- And many other “signs” v.45,47
- V.48 everyone will believe
- ➔ enemies do not doubt his miracles (unlike 21C)
- ➔ aware of the totally convincing nature of Jesus
- ➔ are we?

(1. why did he say this?)

A#2 fear of threat and loss

- v.48 the [enemy] will take away our place and our nation

“**place**” ~ = place of worship/temple

“**nation**” ~ = people of God

➔ Concern for worship, community

➔ good concern

➔ Are we concerned?

(1. why did he say this?)

A#2 fear of threat and loss

*v.48 the [enemy] will take away our place
and our nation*

BUT ... the complete opposite of the way to
bless/ safeguard/ progress both

- - the threat/enemy <> Roman occupation
- = God's righteous judgment

*"if you O LORD should mark iniquities
who could stand" Psalm 130:3*

➔ Not e.g. lack of comfort

➔ God's future verdict

2. What did he say?

A#1 a profitable calculation of substitution
v.50 “better for you” = profitable

- *i.e. this will do you good*
- *i.e. here's something you can be glad about and grateful for!*
- *i.e. you will benefit from this*
➔ *Enviably position!*

2. What did he say?

A#1 a profitable calculation of substitution
v.50 “*nor do you understand*”/ calculate i.e.
makes sense

- *e.g. on pier, boyfriend says to girlfriend see how much I love you. Jumps into the sea and gets into trouble.*
- *BUT – if she had fallen in, and he risked his life to save her = makes sense = great love*

➔ This makes sense ... not an impenetrable mystery ... we can understand!

2. What did he say?

A#1 a profitable calculation of substitution

v.50 better for you that one man die for the people, than the whole nation should perish

= substitution

e.g. footballer X <-> footballer Y

e.g. Sainsburys order: tin of carrots <-> tin of peas

- N.B. no threat, no loss
- Here: threat ... to whole group
- Loss to individual
- One substitutes for the group – bears the threat, experiences the loss

Arrangement: *“he suffers unjustly, so that the rest go free”*

2. What did he say?

A#1 a profitable calculation of substitution
v.50 better for you that one man die for the people, than the
whole nation should perish

= substitution

- *e.g. OT sacrificial system*
- *The Lamb <--> the people*
- *The people under God's disapproving wrath*
- *Substitute*
- *The Lamb dies*
- *The people go free*
- *➔ Jesus must die receiving the threatened punishment so that the people do not perish*

3. Why should we listen?

why indeed?

Not a friend of Jesus ... an ally!

A#1 Because what he said is true!

BUT he is the High Priest v.21

➔ This is a prophecy

= words of spiritual truth (even though he didn't know the real meaning!)

➔ Worship the sovereign God! who makes his enemies his instruments

3. Why should we listen?

Yes! This is a true insight into the heart of the matter ... Christ died so that I would not die

“Profitable calculation of substitution”

→ calculation:

→ Romans 8:31 what shall we say in response ...?

→ 1 John 4:10 “Here is ...”

→ John Stevens: “language of love from God = substitution/propitiation ... from us = obedience”

3. Why should we listen?

Because what is described **is effective**

v.51 Jesus would die for the nation ...not for nation only

... gather into one ...scattered children

- NOT – will have a go
- NOT – will make it possible, perhaps
- BUT – die for ... gather into one ... children of God

➔ Certainty of efficacy

- E.g. family gathering
- Date fixed
- Venue booked
- Food ordered
- Train ticket already printed
- What a gathering it will be!
- ➔ begin to enjoy it already!

summary

1. Why was this said?

- Because of Jesus' convincingness!
- Fear for the place of worship, and the community of God's people ...

2. What was said?

Profitable calculation of substitution

= better ... reckoned ... die for (threat and loss)

➔ We benefit!

summary

3. Why should we listen?

- *Because it is truly the heart of everything*
 - *Because it is effective!*
-
- ➔ *Where are you with this?*
 - ➔ *Some were impressed and believed ...*
 - ➔ *Some were repulsed and rejected v.53
from that day they made plans to put him
to death*
 - ➔ *In the end there are only 2 responses.
Make sure you make the best one!*