



What Are You Holding Onto?

John 11:45-57

Sometimes we get used to _____ in something that was never meant to be _____.

Seven Miracle Signs Highlighted in John:

- Water turned into wine (2:1–11)
- Healing of the royal official's son (4:46–54)
- Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1–15)
- Feeding the multitudes (6:5–14)
- Walking on water (6:16–24)
- Healing the man blind from birth (9:1–7)
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1–45)

John 11:45-47

Some _____, some _____

No one denied the _____, they just denied the claims that Jesus was _____.

John 11:48

God in the flesh was right before them with the power to raise people from the dead but they were blinded by

1. The idolatry of their place of _____
2. The pride in their _____

Instead they should have looked to:

1. The _____ of their worship
2. The _____ of God

What are we hanging onto causing us to miss Jesus and the Kingdom of God?

John 11:49-50

An accidental _____.

John 11:55-57

Jesus is the true _____

Conclusion:

You can have the best _____ but if you still have _____ you won't see Jesus.

Is there something I _____ I will lose if I accept Jesus?

When others are doing great things am I threatened or do I thank God?

Don't _____ onto something that was never meant to _____ you.

HOLD ONTO JESUS



Prayer

Begin your time by praying with one another. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides your time in conversation and community today.

My Story

Would you consider yourself a stubborn person? What is something you're likely to be stubborn about?

Digging Deep

1. Thinking back on Sunday's message, what idea or lesson stood out to you the most?
2. Last week's message was the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead after three days. How does that event reinforce the rest of Jesus' words and actions of His ministry?
3. **Read John 11:45-46.** What response does the Lazarus miracle produce? How could the two different groups come to different conclusions based on witnessing the same event?

Digging Deeper

4. **Read John 11:47-48.** What is the primary fear driving the actions of the chief priests and Pharisees? What does this show about the difference in willingness to submit by the believing and unbelieving witnesses?

5. The unbelieving Jews' unbelief was partially due to their fear of losing their temple and nation, namely their religion and traditions. How does a person's fear of losing part of their identity play into their willingness to believe or not believe? How have you tried to keep Jesus in line with your religious traditions?
6. **Read John 11:49- 53.** What is the irony of Caiaphas' message and prophecy about Jesus, *"You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."*? Have someone recite **John 3:16.**
7. **Read John 11:54-57.** How should we interpret Jesus' ministry going from public to in-hiding? What can we take away from this?

Taking It Home

8. We see throughout Jesus' ministry that it's not the strength of the miracle that helps people believe, but it is the heart of submission by the individual that allows them to believe. Knowing this, how can we use this to help spread the gospel of Christ to those who don't believe?
9. What are we hanging onto causing us to miss Jesus and the Kingdom of God?

Praying Together

As you close in prayer, let us be reminded about the goodness of God so that we may be strengthened in our belief and encourage others to believe in the cross of Christ as well.