



# SERMON CHEAT SHEET

## THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS | John 11:45-12:11

### CHOOSING SELFLESSNESS OVER SELFISHNESS

#### **Miracles Without Belief: The Danger of Superficial Following**

In the beautiful narrative of Jesus raising Lazarus, we find that not all who witnessed this miracle responded with faith. John writes about those who, despite seeing undeniable signs, hurried to report to the Pharisees instead of glorifying Jesus. This reflects our own tendency; how often do we take for granted the miraculous work of God in our lives? When we become blind to His daily graces, similar to the eyewitnesses who chose denial over faith, we miss out on the fullness of life that Jesus offers. Let's be those who recognize the miracles around us and respond with belief, allowing our faith to take root in the wonder of what God does for us each day.

#### **God's Plans Amidst Human Selfishness**

Caiaphas, the high priest, unwittingly articulated God's greater plan when he suggested it was better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish. Here, we see how God can use even the selfish desires of man to fulfill His divine purpose. The plot to kill Jesus stems from human pride and control, but it ultimately leads to the pivotal moment of salvation for all humanity. This teaches us that God is sovereign; what we perceive as setbacks or evil intentions may very well be threads in the intricate design of His redemptive story. Trusting in God's ability to weave purpose from our circumstances encourages us to surrender our desire for control.

#### **The Power of Association: Being a Witness for Christ**

When Lazarus came back to life, many were drawn to Jesus not just for what He had done, but for who He had raised. This highlights an essential truth: our lives, reflective of Christ's power, can attract others to Him. Just like Lazarus, who was simply alive because of what Jesus did—our lives become testimonies of God's grace and redeeming power. However, this association comes at a cost, as the chief priests plotted to silence the evidence of Jesus's transformative power. As followers of Christ, we must be prepared to stand firm in our faith, knowing that our association with Him can provoke opposition but also lead others to faith.

#### **Extravagant Worship: The Heart of Mary**

Mary's response to Jesus's miraculous intervention in her life was one of extravagant worship. By pouring out expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, she exemplifies a heart overflowing with gratitude and recognition of His goodness. This act wasn't just about the cost of the perfume; it was about recognizing the immeasurable worth of what Jesus had done for her. In today's context, we often consider worship in terms of convenience or economic value, neglecting the essence of what it truly means to offer ourselves to God fully. Let's reflect on how we can cultivate extravagant worship, pouring out our lives in gratitude for His mercy and grace.

### LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Reflect daily on the miracles in your life and give God the glory for them.
- Identify a specific area of selfishness in your life and take a step toward selflessness this week.
- Engage in an act of worship that reflects your gratitude to Jesus, whether through song, service, or giving.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask God to open your eyes to the miracles happening around you each day.
- Pray for humility to recognize your own selfishness and for strength to serve others selflessly.
- Lift up those in your life who are living in darkness and ask God to draw them to His light.