

Shepherd of Israel

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

The Holy week story is full of bad guys – Judas, Pilate, Herod, the priests. Yet no doubt none of these people saw themselves as bad guys. They each justified their actions in terms of religious principles, political considerations, or at least self-interest. Perhaps they considered themselves the real heroes of the story. John 11 really does record Caiaphas saying, "It is better... that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." How close to the truth and yet how far off base! Those chilling words should encourage us to listen more closely to God and less to our presuppositions.

Cast list	Caiaphas, the high priest, dressed in period priestly costume.
Approximate Running Time	2 minutes
Scene Description	Jerusalem during Holy week. The setting can be imagined to be the temple. No set decoration is necessary.
Prop List	None
Other Production Notes	None.
Related Scriptures	John 11:45-50; Hebrews 9:27-28; 1 Peter 3:18
Song Suggestions	My Faith has found a Resting Place; Heaven in His Eyes (Rich Mullins); Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Caiaphas enters.

Caiaphas:

At last the others on the Sanhedrin are seeing what a dangerous man this teacher from Nazareth is. The other day when he paraded into Jerusalem I feared the crowd would crown him king right in front of our eyes. Right in front of the Romans' eyes. Then Pilate would have sent in the troops, desecrated the temple, and taken away our leadership of the people. Everything lost because of one man.

I went to hear him teaching the crowds. He said he came to fulfill the law. But then he spoke out against how we teach the people to pray and live. How dare he? We who have studied the law our entire lives. We are the shepherds of Israel, and how we interpret the law protects people from violating it. What would he replace that with? Everyone just following him? He won't be around forever. No, he won't.

Even some on the Sanhedrin seem taken with his teachings. It is fortunate for Israel that I am here. I will not allow this false teacher to overthrow the law, to place the nation in danger from the Romans. If he must be killed to be silenced, then so be it. It is better that one man be destroyed than the entire nation. I say let him die to save us all.

Caiaphas exits. As he exits a slide is projected on the screen, saying:

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him.

Matthew 26:3-4

Fade to black

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