

John 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

Analysis

The chief priests plot to kill Lazarus too, demonstrating how sin escalates. Not satisfied with planning Jesus' death, they target the evidence—Lazarus himself. This reveals the depth of their hardness: they prefer murder to belief. Their logic is perverse: eliminate the witness rather than accept the truth. This demonstrates that rejection of evidence isn't merely intellectual but moral—they suppress truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18). Their plot against Lazarus shows that persecution extends beyond Christ to His witnesses.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin had authority to order executions in certain cases, though Roman oversight was required. Lazarus posed no criminal threat, making any plot purely religious persecution.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the plot against Lazarus teach about hardened hearts suppressing evidence?
2. How does this demonstrate that persecution targets not just Christ but His witnesses?
3. In what ways do people today attempt to 'kill' inconvenient testimony?

Interlinear Text

ἐβουλεύσαντο δὲ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον
consulted But the chief priests that also Lazarus
G1011 G1161 G3588 G749 G2443 G2532 G3588 G2976

ἀποκτείνωσιν

they might put

G615

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 2:16 (Parallel theme): Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Luke 16:31 (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Ecclesiastes 9:3 (Parallel theme): This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

Exodus 10:3 (Parallel theme): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

John 11:57 (Parallel theme): Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

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