

GOSPEL PEARLS

He always triumphs

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Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him, but some of them went to tell the Pharisees what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting. 'Here is this man working all these signs' they said 'and what action are we taking? If we let him go on in this way everybody will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy the Holy Place and our nation.' One of them, Caiaphas, the high priest that year, said, 'You do not seem to have grasped the situation at all; you fail to see that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed.' He did not speak in his own person, it was as high priest that he made this prophecy that Jesus was to die for the nation – and not for the nation only, but to gather together in unity the scattered children of God. From that day they were determined to kill him. So Jesus no longer went about openly among the Jews, but left the district for a town called Ephraim, in the country bordering on the desert, and stayed there with his disciples. The Jewish Passover drew near, and many of the country people who had gone up to Jerusalem to purify themselves looked out for Jesus, saying to one another as they stood about in the Temple, 'What do you think? Will he come to the festival or not?' (John 11, 45-56)

Sometimes, even the most wicked persons can unwittingly tell the truth. This is what happened when the high priest Caiaphas who, fearful of losing power, prophesied that it would be better for Jesus to die for the entire people of Israel. In fact, this is what happened: Jesus truly died for all the people, saving them from sin and death. This testifies that everyone endowed with their own free will and opposed to God, despite their evil intentions, will eventually yield to divine will causing in fact a greater good (the

resurrection of Jesus) than the evil they wanted to do (His death to silence Him forever). So why do you sometimes waste time not doing God's will, if His will triumph in the end anyway?