



April 2, 2017

Pastor Ed Shreffler

My Private Nation

Introduction

- Christians often _____ the God we say we _____.
- There's a little bit of all of _____ in all of _____.

Bad Boy #1:

Joseph _____
Jewish High Priest (18-36 AD)

Caiaphas' Problem was that...

- Jesus drew large _____
- Jesus spoke with such _____

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV11)

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" **Matthew 21:23 (NIV11)**

- Jesus was _____ of the religious leaders

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?" **Matthew 23:33 (NIV11)**

- Jesus raised Lazarus from the _____

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

John 12:17-19 (NIV11)

The Plot to _____ Jesus

⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." ⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. ⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

John 11:47-53 (NIV11)

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I

lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” **John 10:17-18 (NIV11)**

The Caiaphas in all of _____

- We want to _____ what we've placed at the center of our life.
 - These little gods always _____.
 - These little gods always _____.

While saying _____ to God will cost you something,
saying _____ will cost you more.
Including _____ you put in the place of God.

Questions to Ponder

- What have you put in the place of God in your life?
- What's are you seeking to preserve and prop up that actually needs to be surrendered?
- What's the little God that's demanding more and more and providing less and less?

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Meditate on and/or memorize John 10:17-18
- Identify any "little gods" in my life that need to be surrendered to God and do it.
- Fully surrender all that I know about myself to all that I know about Jesus whatever the cost.
- Stop resisting and start resting by receiving Jesus as my Savior and Lord.