

RELATIONSHIPS IN FOCUS – PART 2: POSITION & POWER SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

As the High Priest in the Jewish religious system, to say Caiaphas was in a position of power is an understatement. In the time leading up to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion (and resurrection, by the way), Caiaphas was presented many opportunities to leverage his position and power – even when he stood in the presence of Jesus. But there was something about his position and power that led him to believe Jesus was standing in his presence rather than he standing in Jesus' presence. We may not be a High Priest but, in some way, most of us have position and power with at least someone around us. Whatever position and power we hold is an opportunity to leverage in the presence of Jesus.

READ JOHN 11:1-57; 12:17-19

- Would you say you are in any position of power (and control)? Why or why not?
- Reframe the question: do you hold influence with any person(s)? If so, how does that put you in a position of power (not necessarily power in an overbearing way)?
- Have you ever misused whatever position and/or power you have for your own benefit? What was the result?
- Have you ever tried to maintain power and control in an area of life over God (finances, relationships, etc.)? How has it worked out for you?
- Why do you think Jesus drew crowds everywhere he went?
- Why do you think the crowds presented such a problem for the Jewish religious leaders?
- Why do you think many people in the crowd believing in Jesus escalated the problem for the Jewish religious leaders?
- In what ways does Caiaphas' suggestion that Jesus die make sense (at least to him)?
- In what ways does Caiaphas' suggestion that Jesus die align with God's grander purpose and plan?
- Do you agree that God's hand cannot be forced and his plan cannot be thwarted? Why or why not?
- Do you agree that God will not stand in the way of us having our way – even when our way undermines what's best for us? Why or why not?
- Who in this story do you most relate to personally? Why?
- What next step will you take to release position and power to God?

OPPORTUNITIES ARE FOUND IN WHATEVER POSITION & POWER WE HOLD