

THE
BAD BOYS OF EASTER

PART 1: My Private Nation

INTRODUCTION

In the days and weeks preceding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the high priest Caiaphas found his way into the story. He had an opportunity to stand in the presence of the Savior of the world, but refused to abandon his quest for control and surrender to his Creator. It's easy to dismiss Caiaphas as a fool. But we're also prone to resisting God and putting something else in his place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one area of your life that you feel in control of right now? Why do you feel like you have that area in order?
2. *"Christians often resist the God we say we trust."* Talk about a time you saw a Christian resisting God. Did that person's behavior influence your view of God? If so, how?
3. Talk about a time when saying yes to God would have cost you something. What did you do? What happened?
4. Read John 11:47-53. Caiaphas, the chief priests, and the Pharisees worried about losing their temple and their nation because of Jesus. What are some things you worry about losing because of Jesus?
5. What area of your life feels chaotic right now? What would it look like for you to say yes to God in that area?
6. Are you resting or wrestling with God right now? If you're wrestling with him, what is one thing you can do this week to move toward resting with him? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

There's a little Caiaphas in each of us. We try to preserve whatever it is we've replaced God with in our lives—reputation, relationships, position, beauty, GPA, or standard of living. But those things are already diminishing in value. Generally, your greatest regrets are connected to attempts to preserve something that isn't even a part of your life anymore. Pressure to preserve the little gods will eventually drive you to extremes that harm you or others.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 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