Four Preparations for the Substitutionary Death of Christ (John 11:45-57)

1. The discussion of the death of Christ is triggered by the sinister report of some Jews to the Pharisees (vv.45-46).
2. The purpose of the death of Christ is discussed and decided upon by the unwitting Jewish leadership (vv.47-54).
   1. The frustrated and fearful discussion of the Sanhedrin (vv.47-48)

“*It has always been the case that those whose minds are made up to oppose what Christ stands for will not be convinced by any amount of evidence. In this spirit these men recognize that the miracles have taken place, but find in this a reason for more wholehearted opposition, not for faith. In their hardness of heart they continue on their own chosen way and refuse to consider the evidence before their eyes.” (Leon Morris)*

*“They express their fear that popular messianic expectations will be fired to fever pitch, and, with or without Jesus’ sanction, set off an uprising that would bring down the full weight of Rome upon their heads*.*” (D.A. Carson)*

* 1. The involuntary prophecy of Caiaphas (vv.49-50)
  2. The inspired interpretation of Caiaphas’ words (vv.51-52)
     1. The substitutionary nature of Christ’s death (cf. John 1:29; 10:11, 15; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:10)
     2. The effectual nature of Christ’s death
        1. The focus of Christ’s death (cf. 1:12-13; 3:16; 4:42; 6:37ff, 44, 65; 10:16)
        2. The power of Christ’s death (cf. 6:44, 63; 12:32)
        3. The aim of Christ’s death (cf. 10:16; 17:11, 20-21, 22, 23)

1. The timing of the death of Christ is delayed in accord with the purposes of the Father and the Son (vv.53-54).
2. The accomplishment of the death of Christ is to be during Passover (vv.55-57).