

## **Biggest Losers in the Bible**

### **Caiaphas**

#### ***He rejected John the Baptist's ministry.***

- ❖ Caiaphas is the officially appointed and recognized high priest, though his father-in-law (Annas) still wields much power, Lk. 3:2, Jn. 18:13, Acts 4:6.
- ❖ Caiaphas and the religious establishment rejected John, Matt. 21:23-25.

#### ***He opposed Jesus' ministry and condemned Him to death.***

- ❖ Jesus is targeted by the religious leaders for healing on the Sabbath, Mk. 3:5,6. After raising Lazarus, Caiaphas argues Jesus must die, Jn. 11:45-50.
- ❖ At Caiaphas' home a plot is hatched to seize Jesus and to kill Him, Matt. 26:3-5. Once seized, Jesus is taken to Caiaphas' home for an illegal trial, Matt. 26:57,58 and condemned to be worthy of death, Matt. 26:62-66.
- ❖ It is these religious leaders who charge Jesus before Pilate, Matt. 27:12; and it is they who incite the crowds to crucify Him, Matt. 27:20.

#### ***He persecuted the early church***

- ❖ Caiaphas leads the counsel in warning Peter and John, Acts 4:6ff.
- ❖ Caiaphas would have killed the apostles if not for Gamaliel's words, 5:17,33ff.
- ❖ Caiaphas was presiding when Stephen was killed, 8:1ff.
- ❖ Caiaphas gave Paul authority to persecute believers, 9:1,2, 22:5

Why did Caiaphas and the religious leaders resist these movements of God?  
Check out Mk. 1:5, 11:48, 12:19, Matt. 27:18, Acts 5:17.



In what ways can people today (both unbelievers and believers as well) reflect the attitudes of Caiaphas and his religious cronies?