

Intro: God gave His Son... and we crucified Him - what are we celebrating?

Christmas was not an accident it was part of a plan ordained before the foundation of the earth ...a plan carried out freely by those who hated God -> and there is the problem

Problem:

how can the free and sovereign will of God

John 6:44; 10:14-16, 24-30

coexist with the free will of man?

how could they go from verse 47 -> 53?

this man performs many signs (47) -> they made plans to put Him to death (53)

we tend to err on the side of either fatalism or open theism

Text:

Whose will?

John 11:45 ¶ Many of the Jews (**individually**) therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,

John 11:46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

John 11:47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees (**Jews nationally**) gathered the council and said,

“What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.

John 11:48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

John 11:49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all.

John 11:50 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that **one man should die** for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”

John 11:51 He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year **he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,**

John 11:52 and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

The will of man -

*(48-50) the glory of man - contrast to 11:40-neither irony nor coincidence but providence
man has a free but a fallen will -*

the problem is not the freedom but the nature of your will - Eph 2:1-3

the cure is a new set of desires, a new nature - eph 2:4-8

the Christian life is living out the gift of these new desires - Gal 5:16-24

you cannot will your wants - Romans 6:15-18

is compatible with the will of God -

(51-52) contrast their concern with God's - Rom 5:12-19

Whose plan?

John 11:53 So from that day on **they made plans to put him to death.**

John 11:54 ¶ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

John 11:55 ¶ Now **the Passover** of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.

John 11:56 They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?”

John 11:57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

To accomplish the plan of God -

two plans so far -

man's - Jn 5:18; 7:19; 8:59

God's - John 1:29; 3:16-17

They are compatible to accomplish God's purpose - Acts 2:22-23

we chose sin. He chose salvation... and planned for our sin to accomplish it

Implication:

God's plan shines through the darkness of man's will- genesis 50:15-21

Application:

-(non believer) He has brought you to this moment

-(believer) He has redefined your past -

*the places where your free but fallen will chose to sin He
planned before the creation of the world to display His grace*

Main Idea:

the will of man is compatible with the will of God to accomplish the plan of God

Implication:

God's plan shines through the darkness of man's will

Application: gen 50:15-21

He has redefined your past - so that in the places where your free but fallen will chose to sin He planned before the creation of the world to display His grace

end: John 1:5

Christmas was not an accident it was part of a plan ordained before the foundation of the earth

...a plan carried out freely by those who hated God

...for our good and His glory

so let us freely worship our sovereign God this Christmas

here are some articles for further study and better group discussions:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/compatibilism.html>

<https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/qna/sovereignfree.html>

<http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2010/03/a-calvinists-understanding-of-free-will/>