

Title: Fairies At the Bottom Of My Garden - John 11:45-57

Read:

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸That was a turnaround for many of the Jews who were with Mary. They saw what Jesus did, and believed in him. But some went back to the Pharisees and told on Jesus. The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. "What do we do now?" they asked. "This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have." ⁴⁹⁻⁵²Then one of them—it was Caiaphas, the designated Chief Priest that year—spoke up, "Don't you know anything? Can't you see that it's to our advantage that one man dies for the people rather than the whole nation be destroyed?" He didn't say this of his own accord, but as Chief Priest that year he unwittingly prophesied that Jesus was about to die sacrificially for the nation, and not only for the nation but so that all God's exile-scattered children might be gathered together into one people. ⁵³⁻⁵⁴From that day on, they plotted to kill him. So Jesus no longer went out in public among the Jews. He withdrew into the country bordering the desert to a town called Ephraim and secluded himself there with his disciples. ⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶The Jewish Passover was coming up. Crowds of people were making their way from the country up to Jerusalem to get themselves ready for the Feast. They were curious about Jesus. There was a lot of talk of him among those standing around in the Temple: "What do you think? Do you think he'll show up at the Feast or not?" ⁵⁷Meanwhile, the high priests and Pharisees gave out the word that anyone getting wind of him should inform them. They were all set to arrest him.

Think:

What is it about Jesus that scares people? Two thousand years ago, people believing in Jesus as the Son of God, scared the authorities and the police of the time. Two thousand years later, it doesn't seem that much has changed. You can go about your life at school and believe that fairies live at the bottom of your garden, and no one will bother you. Mention that you believe Jesus died for you on the cross, and that's where the raised eyebrows start. Of course, you can drop into conversation at college that you believe we evolved from a blob of jelly, and everyone's chilled. But once again, tell those around you, that you thank the creator God of the universe for your life, and you might get accused of being a narrow minded nutter. Why's that then? I believe, people are scared of Jesus, because if you acknowledge that he is the Son of God then you have to change your approach to life. Believe in jelly as the origin of life? No problem, just carry on as you are. Believe in Jesus, then following his teachings, mean that you must live life to the full. Believe in fairies? Ahh, that's cute, just stay as you are. Believe that Jesus died for you? Then you are going to follow his teachings, seek to help others, and that's not the easy route. Still don't worry, people thought Jesus was a nutter and were scared of him too, so you are in good company.

Pray:

Lord I thank you that I can be different to others and follow you. Please father, give me the wisdom to know when to challenge others and when to just let it slide. Amen.

Action:

Let's see how many random acts of kindness you can perform today. Go on, count them and see; you could even go to aftershock.org.uk and leave a comment on this dev to let us know how many you did. Bye.