

John 11

Love

- **The True Shepherd** True Message; Salvation by Grace alone. His sheep hear His voice
- **The Good Shepherd** One Who Sustains, Leads, Corrects, Comforts, and Protects
- **The Door** One who keeps Thieves out and His own in. Only way to the Father

**Jesus heads North away from swarm of Religious Leader
Goes back to old stomping grounds and is refreshed**

John 10:40 And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed. ⁴¹Then many came to Him and said, "John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." ⁴²**And many believed in Him there.**

I. Death of Lazarus: Jesus Best Friend

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with **fragrant oil** and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

- **Bethany:** Southwest slope of Mount of Olives
- **Lazarus:** Lit. *God is my Help*
 1. One of Jesus best friend's along with John [Disciple whom Jesus loved]
 2. Brother of Mary and Martha
 3. Mary will anoint Jesus feet in Ch. 12 [John wanted to mention it]

**Whole family loved Jesus...and He loved them
Jesus best friend is sick...very sick**

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, **he whom You love** is sick."

- **Sister's send message to Jesus:** The one you love... is sick

**Remember hearing someone you love is really sick?
I have something to tell you...are you sitting down?**

- **Complaining:** I had a really bad week...
 1. Computer fried
 2. Car broke down
 3. Jimmy John's didn't put enough sauce on my sub...
- **Applebee's:** "Couple we know just found out their son had a brain tumor"

Everything changes when we get the news of someone we love sick/dying:

1. **Senses awakened:** Become more aware
2. Nothing else matters
3. All petty issues complaints can't be found
4. **Things get real.** Things that should have always mattered not really matter

Jesus...The one you love is sick

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This **sickness is not unto death**, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

- **This sickness...**

1. ...will **not end** with the death of Lazarus [Already dead when Jesus heard]
2. ...will Glorify God
3. ...will Glorify the Son of God

- **Glorify:** gr.do'-ksä. Praise, Magnify, Celebrate, Adorn w/Luster, Clothe w/ Splendor
- **NOTE:** When Jesus is glorified the Father is also glorified. Honoring One honors other

Jesus: "This tragedy **is for the glory of God** and I will be glorified through it"

- **Hard Question: When we are hit with a tragedy...**

1. Do we pray for God to be glorified?
2. Do we pray to escape the pain?

- For believers there is always a ***plan in the pain***

1. People touched
2. Our own spiritual growth
3. Eternal Perspective
4. Priority Recalibration

We need an act of the heart/mind led by the Holy Spirit to see the bigger picture

5 Now **Jesus loved** Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

- Jesus loved this entire family...

6 So, when [Jesus] heard that he was sick, He **stayed two more days** in the place where He was.

- **Lazarus is sick**

Q. What's next? **A.** Stay here two more days
If God is love then why doesn't He _____?

We don't have all the information...God does

- **God is love.** Lazarus is sick. Jesus can heal but chooses wait 2 more days
- John didn't understand why Jesus would leave him in jail

Began to doubt...are you really the Messiah?

Matthew 11:6 "...blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

- **God love you and has a wonderful plan for your life?**
- True...but it's His plan...not yours

"What a tragedy [to think] the precious blood of the Savior was shed simply to make [us] happy in this life, rather than to make us **prepared for the next one.**" [Ray Comfort]

- **Eternal Perspective:** God is more interested in our growth than our comfort

...blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.

- True Happiness is found in "letting God be God"
 1. Happy are those who rest in the ways of God
 2. Happy are those who trust in the plan of God
 3. Happy are those trained by the discipline of God

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it **yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

- **Chastening:** Any pain caused by self, inflicted by devil, allowed by God
- **Chastening:** gr. pī-dā'-ä nurture, educate, instruction which *aims to increase virtue*

Chastening is Discipline; becoming a disciple through hardship

Hebrews 5:8 [Jesus] though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the **author of eternal salvation** to all who obey Him...

If Jesus learned obedience through suffering
...how much more should we allow God to teach us through suffering?

- Do we pray for God to be glorified? Mature men/woman/youth
- Do we pray to escape the pain? Jellyfish

Letting God be God. Learning/growing as He teaches us through hard times
...yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- Lazarus is sick. Jesus stays 2 more days...God will be Glorified

7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "**Let us go to Judea again.**" 8 The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

Let us go to Bethany
You want to go near Jerusalem after what just happened?

- **Jesus:** I will use the time I have left to do the will of God

Psalms 90:9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are eighty years*, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, *so is Your wrath.* ¹² So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom....**17** And let the beauty

of the Lord our God be upon us, And **establish the work of our hands** for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

90 Years:

1. 2 Billion 838 Million 240 Thousand Seconds
2. 47,304,000 Minutes
3. 788, 400 Hours
4. 32,850 Days
5. 4692 Weeks
6. 1080 Months

- Walk in day and wont stumble; i.e. we are invincible until God is done with us
- Use this short time wisely and for the Lord...

Romans 13:12 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

- Store up treasure in Heaven

11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but **I go that I may wake him up.**" 12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." 13 However, **Jesus spoke of his death**, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "**Lazarus is dead.** 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

- **Death is only sleep for believers:**

1. Jarius' daughter was "asleep"
2. Stephan "fell asleep"

- **NOT false teaching of soul-sleep but...**

1. Physical body is said to be "sleeping"
2. Soul went to Paradise awaiting Jesus resurrection

Lazarus died and is in Paradise. This event is *not for him* but for glory of God
"I'm going to wake up *wake up* Lazarus body by bringing his soul back from paradise

He is dead. I need to go wake him up. Let's go

16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

- **Thomas:**

1. Lit. "Twin" because he looked like Jesus?
2. Target of Religious Leaders in Judea?

"Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

SUMMARY Death of Lazarus

II. I Am the Resurrection and the Life

17 So when Jesus came, He found that [Lazarus] had already been in the tomb four days.

- **Four Days Dead:** Jesus waited 2 days and took 2 days to get there

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

- **What Jesus is walking into:**
 1. Mary and Martha wailing
 2. Jews from Jerusalem trying to "comfort them"?

20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but **Mary was sitting in the house.**

- **Martha runs:** Tad High-strung but caring

Luke 10:38 [Read] Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

- Mary now sitting contemplating/prayerful meditation in house...

Type A Martha immediately runs to Jesus take care of business...

21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

- **Thank you for coming.**
 1. This is your fault...
 2. Your timing is not great
 3. Didn't you care?

"[God] often permits us to pass into profounder darkness, and deeper mysteries of pain, in order that we may prove more perfectly His power." [Morgan]

Things can get pretty gnarly at funerals

22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

- What did she mean? Could only mean He could raise Lazarus

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

- I will raise your brother from the dead

24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

- You can't mean what I had hoped
- Martha not wanting to be disappointed settles for something less

We know we will eventually see him again...thank you for the sentiment Lord
Can't believe He literally meant what He said... **"Your brother will rise again"**

- Peter in Jail everyone praying for his release

Acts 12:13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of *her* gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" [out of your mind] Yet she kept insisting that it was so. [Astonished that God would answer their prayers?]

- **God wants to blow our minds:**

Your brother will rise again. I meant what I said...

25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

- I Am the resurrection and the life: **You are looking at LIFE**
- **Death began in the Garden:** Eat and you will surely die

Death is the result of sin. Jesus has no sin. Jesus is Life

- God does not only love but He is love
- Jesus does not only give life but He is Life

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

1. Bread of Life
2. Light of the World
3. Door
4. Good Shepherd
5. Resurrection and the Life

"Those that believe in Jesus Christ appear to die, but yet they live. They are not in the grave, they are forever with the Lord. They are not unconscious they are with their Lord in Paradise. Death cannot kill a believer, it can only usher him into a freer form of life."
[Spurgeon]

- **Whoever believes in Me has Eternal Life**

26b...Do you believe this?" 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- Confession of Faith: Who do you say that I AM?

Matthew 16:16 "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

SUMMARY I am the Resurrection and the Life: Your brother will live again

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

28 And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."
29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him.

- Martha now has a different countenance as she goes to get Mary
- **Calls Mary secretly** and whispers in her ear what just happened

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him.

- **Taking His time:** But after all it is His Time

31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."

- **Mary on a mission:** Jews follow

32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

- **Mary not convinced:** Same place as Martha in v 21

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He **groaned in the spirit and was troubled**.

- **Jesus feels the pain of those weeping:**
 1. Pain that sin has caused of all of humanity with no respect of person
 2. Anguish of flawed race like sheep without a Shepherd
 3. Horrendous unresolvable contradiction of life always leading to death

Jesus groaned in Spirit and was Troubled: Groaning of God

"The verb rendered 'groaned' is an unusual one. It signifies a loud inarticulate noise, and its proper use appears to be for the snorting of horses. When used of men it usually denotes anger." [Morris]

"Christ does not come to the sepulcher as an idle spectator, but like a wrestler preparing for the contest. Therefore no wonder that He groans again, for the violent tyranny of death which He had to overcome stands before His eyes." [Calvin]

34 And He said, "**Where have you laid him?**" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept.

Jesus wept: Shortest verse in Bible

- People lit wailed loudly
- **Jesus wept:** Quiet weeping. Jesus was greatly moved, but not out of control.
 1. Jesus knew what He was about to do but wept anyway
 2. Jesus was weeping because he knew their pain/His pain.
 3. Jesus knew what to do at a funeral...

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- Jesus wept with all the people...

36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" 37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

- Jews play on Jesus ***perceived weakness***
- Joes funeral:
 1. Strong at first
 2. Broke down in middle

"Why were you so strong at first and now can't hold it together"
"I thought you were so religious" He was my friend.

- Devil loves to kick us while we're down

III. Lazarus Raised from the Dead

38 Then Jesus, again **groaning in Himself**, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

- **Groaning in Himself:** Spirit of God troubled by what sin has done to man

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time **there is a stench**, for he has been dead four days."

- **Martha digresses in faith...**
 1. Dead four days
 2. Rotting/Stinketh

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

- I never make a promise I don't keep
- You believed only minutes ago...hold on!

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

- What gives glory to God?
- For His purpose to be revealed?
- What is His purpose:

"...that they may believe that You sent Me."

2 Timothy 1:9b [Plan before time began] 10 ...has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

- God's purpose leading to God's glory

"...that they may believe that You sent Me."

John 11:45 [Later] Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

To destroy our Last Great Enemy...Death

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, **"Lazarus, come forth!"** 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **"Loose him, and let him go."**

- Authority of Jesus over death itself!
- If he had not called him by name every grave would have burst open!

1 Corinthians 15:25 [Jesus] must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that will be destroyed is death.*

- Victory over death is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Life, Death, Resurrection!
 1. Victory over power of death
 2. Victory over fear of death
 3. Victory over death itself
- God became man and died in our place that we might live and never die

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and **release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

- Death was victorious in a garden: Eat you will surely die. Sin and death enter

- Death was defeated in a garden: Not My will but Your will be done. Grace wins.

"I will drink the cup of Your wrath for them"

- **Jesus greets Lazarus:** "Good to see you again My friend...how was the trip?"

IV. The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Then **many of the Jews** who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, **believed in Him**. 46 But **some of them went away** to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

- *Many* believed
- *Some* went... and tattled the Pharisees [No He's raising the dead!]

Matthew 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

Raising Lazarus from the Dead will be the final straw

47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, **"What shall we do?** For this Man works many signs. 48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

- **If don't do something...**
 1. Everyone will believe in Him
 2. People will follow Jesus instead of Caesar
 3. Rome will take everything by force including "our place" i.e. Temple

We will lose our influence and power...

- Jesus just raised a dead guy to life
- They think they can do "make Him" do what they want

John 10:18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I (N)have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.

- Jesus was not a martyr murdered for what He believed
- Jesus was a willing sacrifice allowing men to kill Him for to pay for our sin

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."

- **Caiaphas robotically says:** You guys don't have a clue what's really going on

It is expedient; i.e. profitable to us that one man dies for the nation

51 Now [Caiaphas] did not say on his **own authority**; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation

- **Caiaphas:**

1. **High Priest of Israel:** BGG of BGG's
2. Couldn't care less about the people
3. Lord honored his position not his person

- As High Priest he was Given words by God to say to the people

Message from God: You know nothing. This was the plan from the beginning

One man must die for the nation of Israel

52 ...and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

- **God scattered all people at the Tower of Babel**

1. Curse for building a tower to worship false deities
2. Blessing that men from every nation would seek God...

Acts 17:26 [God] has made from **one blood** every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should **seek the Lord**, in the **hope that they might grope for Him and find Him**, though He is not far from each one of us...

- Other sheep not of this fold [John 10:16]
- Caiaphas didn't know what or why he said what he did...

1 Corinthians 2:8b...for had they known [that this was ordained before the ages and for our glory], [the religious leaders] would not have **crucified the Lord of glory**.

If they had known that the crucifixion of Jesus would birth the Church

They would never have crucified Him

- Caiaphas bitterly persecuted Christians after the resurrection

1. Had Apostles thrown into common prison Acts 5
2. Guy Saul [later Paul] went to for permission to kill Christians Acts 9

One man must die!

Command from the Father regarding the Son though Caiaphas position as High Priest

53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

- Caiaphas puts out the hit?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son

- **Freewill collides with pre-destination**

1. Freewill for Religious leaders to plot Jesus death
2. Predestined form eternity past that Jesus would die for our sin

Collision between Freewill and Predestination

- After raising a man from dead religious leaders plot to put Jesus to death?

54 Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples.

- Jesus heads north to spend time with his friends before His final trip to Jerusalem

55 And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves.

- **Passover was near:**

1. People flooding into Jerusalem
2. Purify themselves before the Feast

56 Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?" 57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.

- **Talk of the Temple:**

1. Will Jesus show up?
2. Reward for anyone that would tattle on where He is

SUMMARY Plot to Kill Jesus

