

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: As followers of Jesus, we associate the Advent Season with the anticipation of that first Christmas morning, as the world looked forward to the arrival of their long-awaited Messiah. Looking back on this unmatched moment in history, we can see clearly that God's timing was perfect. This anchor moment in our faith's history assures believers that despite our circumstances, God's provision is always Right On Time.

Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

God's Provision is always Right On Time.

John 11:1-40 (ESV)

What Looks Like a Delay is often God Preparing Something Greater.

God's Delays are Never because of a Lack of Love.

God's Timing always Serves a Greater Purpose.

We Need to Wait in Faith, Not in Fear.

God's Timing Always Leads to His Glory.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Read John 11:1-40. As you see this story unfold, have you ever felt what Mary and Martha felt in relation to God's Timing in your life? Explain.
- 3) Where in your life right now are you most aware of your own timetable—and how might God be inviting you to trust *His* timing instead?
- 4) What area of waiting has been hardest for you? What do you think God might be shaping or preparing during that time?
- 5) When it comes to your prayer life, are you able to bring your "Lord, if You had been here..." complaints to God honestly and authentically? Explain.
- 6) God still brings life into dead places—dead relationships, dead hope, dead dreams, dead situations. What helps you stay anchored in faith rather than slipping into fear or frustration when God seems late?
- 7) Jesus arrives exactly when He intends. And when He does, His glory is revealed, faith is strengthened, and lives are transformed. How can we practically encourage one another as a community when we are in seasons of waiting?