



Week 6

Miracles Beyond our Expectations

Sermon Notes

John 11:1-7

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

1. God assigns the meaning

- In John 11:4 Jesus lays out that the meaning of this difficult thing is “for God’s glory”.
- We need to allow God to assign the meaning amid our need for miracles

2. God’s timing

- The delay of Jesus didn’t show a lack of love for Lazarus or his sisters
- God’s timing is not the absence of God

3. Don’t prescribe the miracle

- When we expect God to move in a specific way, we limit our ability to see what he is doing

4. Nothing separates us from God’s love

Romans 8:35-37

- Our circumstances, failures, or unanswered prayers don’t change God’s extravagant love for us.

5. A bigger miracle

- What seems like a disappointment might be God setting up something beyond our imagination.

Questions to Consider

1. Jesus told the disciples that Lazarus' sickness would not end in death, yet Lazarus died. How do you think the disciples and sisters felt during those days of waiting?
2. Pastor Deborah used the Costco vending machine illustration—asking for one thing but getting another (yet still receiving what was needed). How does this relate to how we pray?
3. What situations in your life have caused you to question whether God really loves you? How does this story challenge that thinking?

4. The raising of Lazarus led to the plot to crucify Jesus, which ultimately brought about our salvation. How does this help you trust that God might be doing something bigger than you can see?
5. Where in your life might God be orchestrating a "bigger miracle" that you can't yet comprehend?

Application

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Resurrect a Buried Promise

- Spend time in prayer asking God about a promise or dream you've "buried." Journal about what God might still want to do with it.

Option 2: Reframe Your Perspective

- Identify one difficult situation you're currently facing. Instead of focusing on how you think it should be resolved, ask God to show you His purpose in it and how He might be glorified through it.

Option 3: Practice Open-Handed Prayer

- Each day this week, pray about your needs but end with, "Not my way, but Yours. I trust You're doing more than I can see."

Option 4: Serve Week Commitment

- Look at the summer booklet and commit to at least one Serve Week activity. Step into community by serving alongside others.

★ Mark your calendars for our upcoming Holy Spirit Conference. Outpour begins May 31st.

Pray for one another