

NOT MY JESUS

Reclaiming the Truth, Rejecting the Idols

LESSON 5 – DISTANT JESUS

*"Now a man was sick—Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. ³ So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."'" **John 11:1-7 (CSB)***

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Did you know God never has to guess? He knows everything, all the time.

1. God is never confused or ignorant about **anything**.
According to **Matthew 10:30** *"But even the hairs of your head have all been counted"*. The average human has just over 100,000 strands of hair, and Jesus can account for each of yours. Every single time a strand of hair falls off your head or grows back; He knows.
2. The Bible teaches that Jesus is **both** powerful and personal.

"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." **Matthew 28:18b (CSB)**

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." **Matthew 11:28 (CSB)**

3. Jesus is not only powerful enough to have perfect **knowledge** of you, but He's also close enough to care.

"LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. ³ You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD. ⁵ You have encircled me; you have placed your hand on me." **Psalms 139:1-6 (CSB)**

4. The truth about Jesus' caring is **incredibly** important, because life is a series of highs and lows.
 - A. Sometimes, it feels like we experience a lot more lows than highs. In those moments, we can fall into the trap of believing the lie that Jesus is **distant** from us.
 - B. In difficult seasons can make us feel like God is distant, but it's often in those moments that we need to be aware of how close He really is. For you are not **alone**.

"I will never leave you or abandon you. ⁶ Therefore, we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" **Hebrews 13:5b-6 (CSB)**

Quote ~ "No matter what you are facing today, know this: You are not alone, and you are just walking through." ~ **Toni Warren**

A MAJOR MIRACLE

In John chapter 11 we see details of the last of Jesus's seven major miracles recorded in John's Gospel. In this account, we see both Jesus's power and His humanity on display. We see that Jesus both cares for us and has the power to minister to us in our time of need.

1. Jesus was a **close friend** of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
2. When Lazarus became **ill**, his sisters turned to Jesus because they believed He could help them.
 - A. Jesus did something that surprised them: When he **heard** that Lazarus was ill, He "stayed two more days in the place where he was" (v. 6).
 - B. Instead of rushing to Lazarus's side, He **delayed**. From a human perspective, this seems insensitive, but Jesus was operating with divine wisdom.

Quote ~ *"Circumstances may cause interruptions and delays, but never lose sight of your goal."* ~ **Mario Andretti**

- C. His delay had a **purpose**: to display the glory of God through an even greater miracle.
3. Martha's initial **response** to Jesus's delay was grief and disappointment, even though she still expressed her faith in Him (vv. 21-27).
 - A. Martha **believed** that Jesus could have prevented her brother's death. But Jesus offered her a greater truth—He is not just a healer; Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. (vs 25).
 - B. Jesus does not merely offer **resurrection**; He is the resurrection. He doesn't just offer life; He is the life. The only thing that can overcome the grave is a resurrection. The only thing that can overcome death is life.
4. Jesus was deeply moved by Mary's grief, and He **wept** alongside her. Though He knew He would raise Lazarus, He still entered into the pain of those around Him.
 - A. Jesus addressed the root issue: He called Lazarus from the tomb, and the **death** holding Lazarus captive had no choice but to comply. Lazarus walked out of the tomb alive.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 1 Corinthians 15:55 (NIV)

5. Lazarus's resurrection points to the greater resurrection that all who believe in Christ will **experience** one day. Jesus calls not just Lazarus but all believers to rise from the grave into resurrection bodies and new life.