

# WHEN FAITH COLLIDES WITH REALITY

## Pastor Scotty Gibbons | October 18, 2020

**John 11:1-2** 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.)

**John 11:3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

**John 11:4** 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.”

**John 11:5-7** 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.”

**John 11:11-15** After He had said this, He went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep. So then He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

**God doesn’t allow storms in your life because He wants to shipwreck your faith, but to strengthen it.**

**John 11:20-21** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

**God’s silence doesn’t represent His absence.**

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

**God is rarely early, but He’s never late.**

**John 11:35** Jesus wept.

**John 11:38-40** Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” He said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

**Don’t doubt in the dark what God spoke in the light.**

**John 11:43-44** When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

**John 11:45** Many came to faith in Him.

**God doesn't always meet your expectations, but He does always exceed them.**

**Ephesians 3:20-21** - Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.