

Sunday, February 25, 2024
PRESENTING JESUS
PART 1: OMNISCIENT JESUS

For the next three weeks, we're doing a series of teachings called, "Presenting Jesus". As you may know, our vision here at Capstone Church is exactly that: to Present Jesus. This series is designed to present Him to you in a way that deepens your faith in Him. We will use a single story from the Bible as our foundation – that's right – one story. In that story, you will see that Jesus is God and can be trusted with your life. Today's study focuses on the omniscience of Jesus.

Omniscience is the state of possessing all the knowledge there is.

John 11:1-16 (NIV)

Have you ever questioned God's timing or methods?

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

Many of us are not comfortable unless we can understand when, how, and why God does the things He does. Even if God were to lay them out for us, our perspective would not accept them. What is our perspective? *A perspective based upon comfort, time, instantaneous gratification, and self-focused need.* God does love you very much, but His perspective is not based out of our perspective's factors.

There are several things that are apparent in this story: A man named Lazarus, who lives in Bethany is sick. We know something else: these people love Jesus and He loves them. A request goes up from the sisters of Lazarus: "Lord, the one you love is sick". From our perspective, "we "need" Jesus to respond right now. Lazarus is not comfortable, and neither are we. If you don't heal him now, it will be too late. We are hurting".

Jesus has a perspective as God that sees things we do not see and responds to the request from that perspective. What does He do? He waits until things get worse. He allows the pain to continue longer than necessary. He ignores the pleas of His beloved. Anyone relate so far? Notice Jesus' explanation of His timing/plan to His disciples. How many of you are His disciple?

“I work in the light – not the world’s understanding of light – but by kingdom light.”

John 5:19 (NIV)

In this passage, Jesus gives us an explanation of His activity and timing. He only does what He sees the Father do. If the Father works, He works. If the Father ceases, He ceases. If the Father delays, He delays. Why? *Because such a walk glorifies God.* Is Jesus God? Then, it glorifies Him. In His omniscience, Jesus knew Lazarus would die from his illness. In His omniscience, Jesus also knew what the outcome would be, and that the outcome was in His control. His focus was on the glory of God. Since we don’t understand Jesus’ focus, we often view things like Thomas: *If God doesn’t do this like I think He should, this is going to end badly.*

Jesus knows what is going on. He does not ignore your request for help. Since Jesus brings the kingdom to light, He knows how that must happen. Do you trust His understanding/omniscience? You can. His way may not immediately stop the pain or discomfort, but it will end in the glory of God.

Today’s Scriptures:

- John 11:1-16 (NIV)
- Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)
- John 5:19 (NIV)