

It Takes Resistance to Change Direction

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / John 11:1–16

Jesus is for you because His actions are compelled by His own love, the Father's will, and your faith: it is what motivates Jesus in all He does.

Notes

John 11:1-16, "It Takes Resistance to Change Direction," Subtitle: Jesus' Motives,
Scripture: Matt. 10:28-31

You can trust that Jesus is for you because His actions are compelled by His own love, the Father's will, and your faith. Join us in person this Sunday at 10:30 or follow along online live as we discuss what motivates Jesus in all He does.

Jesus' actions are always motivated by His Love (John 11:1-5)

- v 4, Jesus was not at odds when he heard, but was motivated by it (grammatically, note "love" in vv. 3+5)
- v. 6, When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Had he left immediately, Lazarus would still have been dead for two days. So nothing would have been gained by an immediate departure. However, there was something to be gained by waiting two days before setting out. The spirit of the departed was thought to hover around the body for three days in the hope of a resuscitation. The raising of Lazarus after four days, then, would be clearly seen as a manifestation of the glory of God (4), which would strengthen the two sisters' faith.[1]

- [1]Colin G. Kruse, *John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 4, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 244.

Jesus' actions are always motivated by His Love (John 11:1-5)

- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not motivated by His love for you.
- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not working for God's glory.
- ++What glorifies the Lord is always an outworking of His (Jesus') love for you.

The underlying message of the Gospel of John is, "...so that you believe." Do you believe that everything the Lord does with and around you is motivated by His love for you, for His glory.

Do you believe?

In order for Jesus' actions to glorify the Father, it stands to reason that His actions must always be motivated by the Father's will.

Jesus' actions are always motivated by the Father's Will (John 11:6-10; c.f., John 9:4)

John 9:4 "4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work."

Jesus is ready now to go

The disciples saw the threat

Jesus saw only the Father's will

Jesus' actions are always motivated by the Father's Will (John 11:6-10; c.f., John 9:4)

- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not motivated by the Father's will for you.
- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not working things out with absolute clarity (no distractions).
- ++The actions of Jesus are always an outworking of clear and absolute right for you.

Do you Believe?

In order for Jesus' actions to fulfill the Father's will, it stands to reason that His actions must always be motivated by your faith, which is the Father's will.

Jesus' actions are always motivated by Your Faith (John 11:11-16)

The disciples were easily distracted by what was right in front of them, instead of seeking to see things the way Jesus did (v. 8, "seeking to stone you," v. 12, "if he is asleep," and v. 16, "that we may die with Him.").

Jesus focused on purpose

The disciples focused on circumstance

All of this was so that they would believe (v. 15)

Jesus' actions are always motivated by Your Faith (John 11:11-16)

- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not concerned for your faith.
- ++There is never a time in your life or mine, during which Jesus is not compelled to help you see more clearly.
- ++Jesus is always seeking to reveal to you a peace that can only come through trusting Him more and being distracted by the world less.

Do You Believe?

Jesus was about to do something so incredible, that it would remove any remaining doubt in their minds as to who He was and what He was doing.

In the same way, that is what motivates Jesus to do for you what He does. He is always preparing to do something so incredible, that it works to remove any remaining doubt in your minds as to who He is and what He is doing.

James 1:3–4 "3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Why was John so moved by the Holy Spirit to relay the narrative of Lazarus' resurrection? It was so that you might believe that He is who He says He is and will always do what He says He will do, for God's glory and your good.

Jesus is always compelled to be FOR you.

Do You Believe?

It took resistance to change the direction of the disciples' thinking, to move

them from a focus on the world around them to a focus on the work of their Savior. In the same way, it takes great resistance to change the direction of our minds and lives, and redirect them to that which gives glory to the Lord and establishes us in love.

Praise the Lord that we can...

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