

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
Do You Believe This?
John 11:1-57 (page 748)

Sunday, February 22, 2015

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Jesus is always:

- **Purposeful in His actions** (John 11:1-16)

His purpose in allowing Lazarus to die was:

- for God's glory (v 4)
- to increase the faith of His disciples (v 14)

- **Personal in His presence** (John 11:17-37)

By His presence, Jesus personally reveals:

- the truth to us (vs 23-25)
- His love to us (vs 33-38a)

- **Powerful in His working** (John 11:38-44)

Jesus is the One who:

- is able to give life (vs 43-44a)
- is able to set people free (v 44b)

- **Unequaled in His sovereignty** (John 11:45-57)

He uses everything to bring glory to Himself:

- by turning evil into good (vs 45-53)
- by His control over all things (vs 54-57)

Making it stick.....

God's delays are based in His faithful love for us

The glory of God is that He gives Himself to us

We must beware of second-guessing God

God's perspective is eternal, not temporal

Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 11:1-57 (Week Twenty-two)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

Raising Lazarus from the dead was not the Lord's last miracle before the cross, but it was certainly the one that aroused the most attention from both His friends and His enemies. It is really the climactic miracle of Christ's earthly ministry as recorded in John's gospel. Being in the grave for four days made it a miracle that could not be denied or avoided by the Jewish leaders. Death is man's last enemy and Jesus Christ has defeated this threatening enemy totally and permanently through His own resurrection. The Lord of life and death continues to invite the world to come to Him. Though death is inevitable for all of us, Christ shares His victory over this enemy with all who repent and believe on Him as their Savior and Lord.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

What new view of God did you gain from Sunday's message?
What new insight about you came to mind?

How did the people in this story see the "glory of God"? How do we see the "glory of God"?

Why did Jesus make sure that Lazarus was dead before He returned to Bethany? Is eternal perspective important for us? Why?

What does Jesus mean when He says that those who believe on Him will never die? How does that impact how you live today? Discuss.

In what ways are you like Martha in how you think about God and what He can do in your life and the lives of others?

Why do you think Jesus wept (v 35)?

Read vs 43-44....How does this event picture our salvation and subsequent sanctification (growing in Christ)? How does that look in your life (i.e. are you still "bound up" in your grave clothes)? Discuss.

What pronouncement did the High Priest make (vs 49-50)? What were his evil intentions? How did God use his words? What can we learn from this concerning God's work in the world? In our own lives? Discuss.

How might contemporary Christianity be challenged or threatened by Jesus if He were to return to our culture today? Discuss.

Taking it to the streets....

What specific situation do you need to trust God to work out in your life at this time?

How can you develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ this week? What are two steps that you will implement to begin that journey?