

John 11

- I. 11:1-16 God's Delays
- II. 11:17-44 I am the Resurrection and the Life
- III. 11:45-57 One Man Should Die for the People

I. 11:1-16 God's Delays

- A. 11:3 These people who knew Jesus best and who were most confident of His love, seem the least specific in their request in the time of their greatest need.
- B. 11:5-6 *Jesus loved Martha, [Mary ...] and Lazarus. So ... He stayed two more days...*
 - i. Principle: God's inactivity can actually be related to His love. We have trouble seeing it that way. But consider the impact of this miracle as a result of Christ's delay. The helped set the stage for a more awesome answer to prayer. And we see from v.4 that He already knew what He was going to do.

II. 11:17-44 I am the Resurrection and the Life

- A. 11:19 Martha and Mary were in fully immersed in mourning at their brother's death.
 - i. 11:21,32 The Lord didn't show up a the last minute and save the day. We might say it was already too late before He showed up at all.
 - a) **Beginner Intermediate Advanced** Lessons in understanding the love of God:
 - Sometimes waiting upon God involves:
 - Going right through that valley of the shadow of death and fearing no evil.
 - Embracing hardship as a part of His perfect plan.
 - Enduring grief and uncertainty and still remembering that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Loneliness, loss, pain, sorrow: these are disciplines; they are God's gifts to drive us to his very heart, to increase our capacity for him, to sharpen our sensitivities and understanding, to temper our spiritual lives so that they may become channels of his mercy to others and so bear fruit for his Kingdom. But these disciplines must be seized upon and used, not thwarted. They must not be seen as excuses for living in the shadows of half-lives, but as messengers, however painful, to bring our souls into vital contact with the Living God that our lives may be filled to overflowing with himself in ways that may perhaps be impossible to those who know less of life's darkness.

(author unknown, Quoted by Ray Stedman in <http://raystedman.org/john/pdf/3860.pdf>)

Psalms 40:1-3 (NKJV) ¹I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.

²He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.

³He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord.

B. 11:24 *the resurrection at the last day*

- i. Martha is thinking at the **theological level**; the Lord wants to move her to the **personal level**. Both are important – but the personal level is even **more important**. More on that below.
- ii. Doctrinal Point: The Resurrection of the Body

The Bible teaches clearly and repeatedly the truth of resurrection of the body. Bodily resurrection is a truth which comes from the Bible.

- a) It is different from the *immortality of the soul*, which comes from Greek philosophy.
- b) It also does not involve *soul sleep* which is sometimes incorrectly believed by Christians who misunderstand the use of the word *sleep* referring to the bodies of believers who have died in the New Testament.

Job 19:25-26 (NKJV) For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NKJV) ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) ²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

C. 11:25-26 With these words Jesus makes a startling claim. That death itself is to be overcome through faith in Him. He claims to be the solution to death.

- i. All the progress ever made in health, nutrition and medicine, has failed to improve the bottom line statistic regarding death: 100% of people still die sooner or later.

"It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens."

*"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying."
– both from Woody Allen*

D. 11:27 Martha moved successfully from the theological to the personal.

- i. This is the difference between people like Martha, Mary and Lazarus and people like the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees.
- ii. The scholars were often right about “the Messiah” theologically (See Mat 2:1-6). They simply never trusted Christ personally as did Martha and others.
- iii. This is the difference between truly believing in Jesus and not believing in Him, between having eternal life and not having it.

III. 11:45-57 One Man Should Die for the People

i. 11:50-52 Doctrinal Point: Substitutionary Atonement

The teaching that Christ suffered and died in our place, instead of us, so that we can receive eternal life through faith in Him based on no merit of our own.

ii. Taught – incompletely, only illustrated – in the Old Testament by means of sacrifices:

- a) Each person had to offer their own sacrifice, so it was possible to fall short by not offering correctly or not offering enough. Pure justice.
- b) The job was never finished, because sacrifice could only free a person from the penalty of sin, but not release the person from sin's power. More sin eventually followed the sacrifice and needed a new payment.
 - Christ's sacrifice is a perfect combination of love and justice and is complete. No new or additional sacrifice is ever needed.

iii. Objections:

- a) God is unjust for condemning His Son to bear the sins of the human race.
 - Answer: Christ voluntarily took our sins upon Himself. He was not forced to do so because as God, His will was in perfect harmony with the Father's will.
- b) No one can be held responsible for sin unless he or she commits it personally.
 - Not always true on the human level. Executives, boards of corporations, and leaders in government must take responsibility for their people's actions – especially when they are wrong.
 - Since God (including God the Son) allowed us the freedom to sin, He can assume responsibility for our sin even though He did not personally sin Himself.

Mark 10:45 (NKJV) ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Romans 5:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,...

*Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*