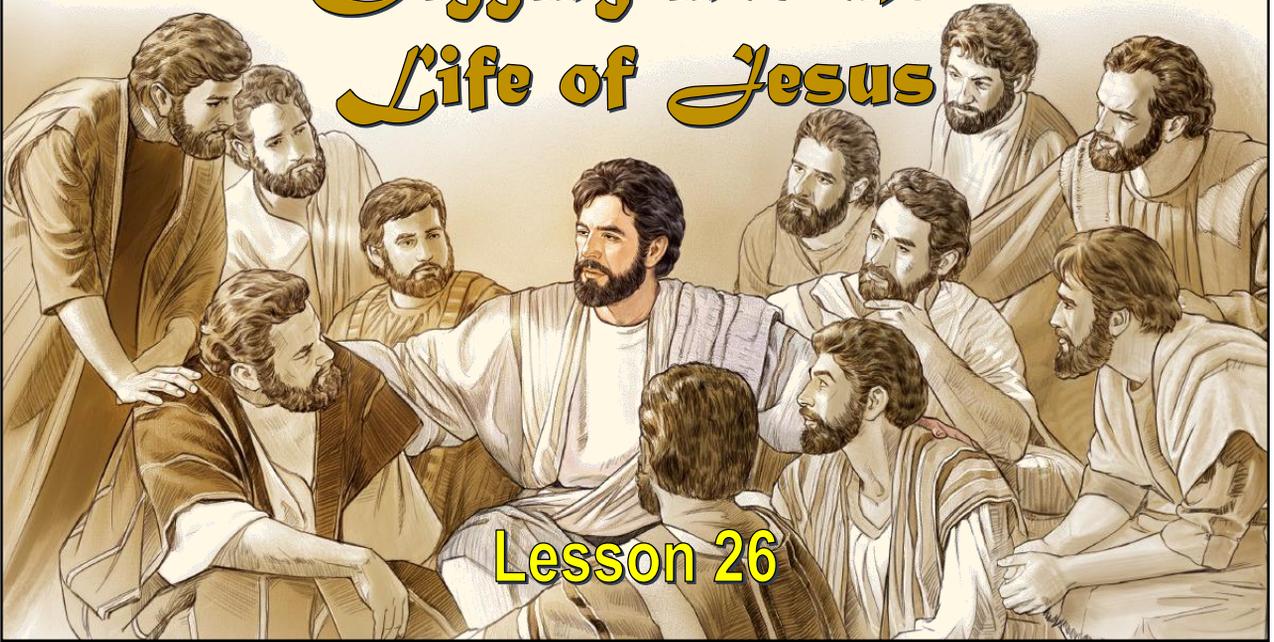


Digging into the Life of Jesus



14th May 2020

1. Review of Context!



2. Brief recap of John 10:1-21

3. Continuation of John 10:27-42

4. John 11 - Lazarus Raised from the Dead

CONTEXT MATTERS!

Knowing the historical, social, religious, economic, and political conditions that existed during the time and place of writing enables us to better understand the meaning of the text and the intentions of the writer.



Israel must "seek the Lord" without delay, or the opportunity will be past; God will have withdrawn Himself from them.

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When studying the Bible, look out also for:

- the verses immediately before and after the passage.
- the paragraph in which the passage appears.
- other books by the author, as well as the overall message of the entire Bible.
- the literary genre of the book e.g. historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, apocalyptic literature, parables etc.

John 9 Continuation John 10

The Pharisees and religious leaders argued and denied that a miracle had taken place!!!

The True Shepherd (Ezekiel 34)

His miracles should have convinced them that His claims are true.

- The **thief and robber** steal, kill and destroy
- The **hired hand** does the job only for money, but readily flees when danger comes
- The **Good shepherd** is committed to the sheep.



Jesus' Point:



The True Shepherd did not need to use deceit, trickery, or any illegitimate means to get the sheep to follow him.

The best way to expose the false lies of the wolves is to know the Truth of the Good Shepherd.



Know the real and you'll know what is false.

Beware of “Consensual Truth.”

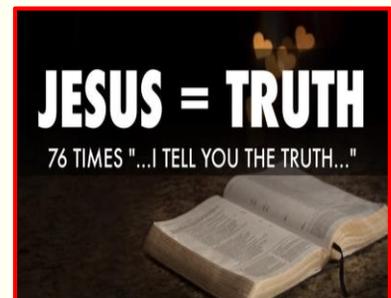
The fact that many people believe the same thing doesn't necessarily make it any more “the truth.”

Be a True Disciple!

5 “But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”

Even if a stranger could imitate the True Shepherd's voice, the flock would instantly detect the difference.

We who know His voice won't easily lose sight of the truth, because once the Word has taken root in our lives, it will become part of our spiritual mindset.



The True Shepherd's Love

“Only goodness and love will pursue me” (Psalm 23:6)

The True Shepherd's love doesn't grow stronger when we do good things or weaken when we sin.



His love can't be earned. It can only be received. We can win the affections of others through our actions.

The True Shepherd does not love us for the same reason that we love others.



We love others because of need. Sometimes, our need is born out of our poverty. We find in someone else the supply of our want and lack.

Some cannot understand the Shepherd's love because they are used to their trading and exchanging culture....



But the True Shepherd's love is only and always a gift of grace.

We can never be good enough to gain His love and never bad enough to lose it.

It is constant, always calling out to us, always seeking to lead, protect, nurture and nourish us.

Practical Exercise: Reflect on the events of your day, and try to find those times when Jesus' goodness and love were chasing after you.



As you spend time on a daily basis contemplating His love, you will begin to sense a gentle, embracing love with your name on it.

OUTLINE OF JOHN 10:1-21 THE TRUE SHEPHERD

1. Jesus Gathers His Sheep (The True Shepherd - 10:1-6)
2. Jesus Guards the Sheep (The Gate - 10:7-10)
3. Jesus Gives His Life for the Sheep (10:11-21)
 - The good shepherd dies for the sheep (10:11-13)
 - The good shepherd knows the sheep (10:14-16)
 - The good shepherd is raised for the sheep (10:17-21)

We are not told how the debate ends.

From here, John fast forwards several months ahead to the feast of Dedication (Hanukkah Festival).

RELIGIOUS LEADERS SURROUND JESUS AT THE TEMPLE (10:22-42)



The Identity of Christ (10:22-42)

1. Jesus is the Christ (10:22-30)

2. Jesus is the Son of God (10:31-42)

From where we last stopped...

27-28 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can **snatch** them out of my hand.

“snatch” means “to seize, pluck, or carry off by force”.

This is what a thief and robber might do (vv 1,8,10,12).

Jesus is affirming that neither Satan nor any outside force can steal believers from Him, as long as they remain faithful to Him.

Jesus answers 2 important questions:

1. How can you tell a ‘true’ Christian from one who just claims to be a Christian?

“My sheep listen to my voice” – they are **“drawn to”** what Jesus has to say, **“believe”** what He says is the truth, and **“follow”** Him.

2. Can a born-again believer and follower of Jesus Christ **EVER** lose their salvation?

Eternal life is a quality of life that is assured, guarded, protected, and guaranteed by God Himself.

The Good Shepherd is there to protect us so no wolf or thief can steal us from Him.

But we must also be diligent to continue believing and obeying Him.



The Lord's sheep are characterized by: obedience, recognition of the shepherd, and allegiance to him.

What if the sheep willfully wanders away?

He will search for that one lost sheep. The genuine sheep "will come to itself" (like the prodigal son).



Sometimes, errant believers would be disciplined (e.g. Hosea's message).

To live a joyful, purpose-driven, victorious Christian life, we have to do what the Good Shepherd teaches.

His truth is not intended to limit, frustrate, or impede us, but rather to release and unleash us to fulfil His calling upon our lives.



Seekers can be like the Jewish crowds, apparently “believing in Him”, when all they are believing is a mixture of their preferred idea of Jesus, and those characteristics which appeal to them.

We are to believe in the True Shepherd, the whole person of Jesus, with all His radical and staggering demands upon us.



29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

God's sheep find safety in the both the hand of the Good Shepherd and God the Father.

Imagine, the hands that created the world hold on to the believer!

God is very tightfisted when it comes to the security of His sheep.



PROMISES OF GOD'S PROTECTION

PS 54:4 Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

PS 60:12 With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

PS 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

PROMISES OF GOD'S PROTECTION

ROM 8:38-39 For I am convinced that
 neither death nor life,
 neither angels nor demons,
 neither the present nor the future,
 nor any powers,
 neither height nor depth,
 nor anything else in all creation,
 will be able to separate us from the love of God that is
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.



PROMISES OF GOD'S PROTECTION

2 TIM 1:11-12 **And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.**

That is why I am suffering as I am.

Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

PROMISES OF GOD'S PROTECTION

JUDE 1:24-25 **To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy -- to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.**

30 "I and the Father are **one**."

One = one in essence. This is Jesus' 2nd clear and unmistakable claim to being God.

The 1st in John 8:58, "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am."

Additional Meaning: Jesus and His Father are together fully committed to preserving His sheep from being snatched!

Before verse 30, Jesus stressed

- His relationship with the Father,
- His intimate knowledge of the Father (v 15),
- and the love of the Father for Him (v.17).
- He said that His miracles were performed "in my Father's name" (v.25), which means that they were done by the power of the Father and for His honour.

Then came this final claim "I and the Father are one" (v.30).

**31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,
3rd time the Jews wanted to kill Him.**

1st Time: John 5:17-18 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

2nd Time: John 8:58-59 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple ground

To the Jews Jesus' statement that He and the Father were one was blasphemy.

Penalty is death by stoning:

Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death (Leviticus 24:16).

יהוה
HWHY

32-33 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Do you suppose there were loose rocks lying around Solomon’s porch in the Temple?



They fully intended to stone Jesus – they brought these rocks with them - they were just looking for the opportunity (and excuse) that would allow them to use them against Jesus.

EXPECT

We can expect to encounter hostility in the world too.



When we stand for Jesus in the work and market place, be ready to face opposition.

34-36 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came — and the Scripture cannot be broken — what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world?

Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?

The judges of Psalm 82 were called “gods” because in their office they determined the fate of other men. Also, in Exodus 21:6 and 22:8-9, God calls earthly judges “gods.”

Context: Psalm 82 is about God’s indignation over the unjust administration of the “gods” who favoured “the wicked.”

The judges were not gods in essence or fundamental nature. But the role they filled made them like gods to the people.

Outline of Psalm 82:

- God stands and judges in the assembly of the gods (v 1)
- The gods are confronted over their injustice (vv 2-5)
- The gods are confronted with their mortality (v 6-7)
- God is asked to rise in the assembly and judge the earth (v 8)

Jesus' argument: "If God gives these unjust judges the title 'gods' because of their office, why do you consider it blasphemy that I call Myself the 'Son of God' in view of My testimony and My works?"

They had to think hard on this one!

Jesus' argument apparently stopped them temporarily from continuing with their intent to kill Him.

37-39 “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

3 kinds of evidence were given to convince people about Jesus:

- 1. Testimony of Others – Jn 7:46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared**
- 2. Consistency of Character convinced others who spent time with Jesus and observed His life.**
- 3. Signs and miracles demonstrated His power.**

40-42 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed and many people came to him.

They said, “Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true.”

And in that place many believed in Jesus

Jesus realized that His time had not yet come.

So, He went for a time east of Jordan.



There He found a better reception, for “many believed in him.”

Perea was the domain of Herod Antipas, where the rulers in Jerusalem had no authority.

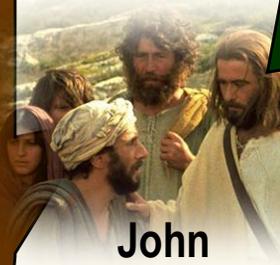
Jesus thus would be safe there - at least temporarily.

"My hour has not yet come" (2:4) =

the hour for him to show Himself as Messiah and King of the Jews had not yet arrived.



Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.



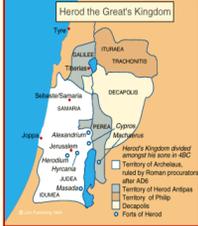
**John
7:1-13**

"My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil."

REF	COMMENTS	PHRASE
7:6-8	Jesus' brothers encourage Jesus to perform miracles in Judea (Jerusalem) during the Feast of Tabernacles rather than in obscure Galilee in order to convince the entire nation	His time had not yet come
7:30	Jewish religious leaders desire to seize Jesus after Jesus had accused them of not knowing God the Father	His time had not yet come
8:20	Jesus accuses the Pharisees of not knowing the Father while He taught in the Temple	His time had not yet come
12:23	Jesus has just entered Jerusalem on the Sunday prior to His crucifixion (Palm Sunday)	His hour had come
13:1	Jesus knew that His time had come at the Last Supper with His disciples, so He washes His disciples feet.	His hour had come
16:32	Jesus teaches His disciples	His hour had come
17:1	Jesus prays for believers His time had come	His hour had come

Jesus realized that His time had not yet come.

So, He went for a time east of Jordan to the place where, some time earlier, John had been baptizing



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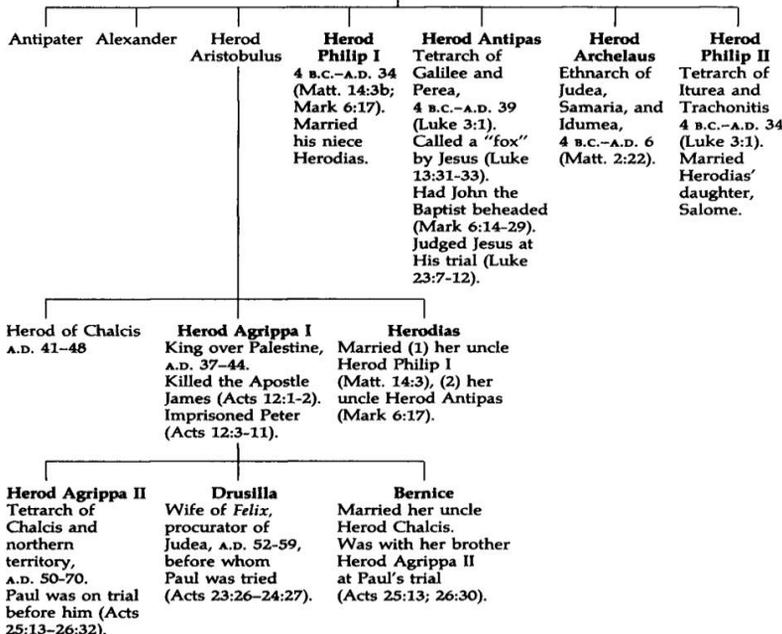
Jesus thus would be safe there - at least temporarily.

Despite the influence of the Pharisees, many people still came to Jesus.

God’s work goes on, despite the opposition of man!

He opens doors that no human can shut. Those who would learn to celebrate their problems must learn to trust God’s sovereignty and plans even if the road leads through Gethsemane or Golgotha.

Herod the Great
King of Palestine, 37–4 b.c. (Luke 1:5)
Killed Bethlehem baby boys (Matt. 2:1-17)



From The Bible Knowledge Commentary

JOHN 11 - Lazarus Raised from the Dead

7TH SIGN

Jesus Turns Water into Wine	John 2:1-11
Jesus Heals the Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Jesus Makes the Lame Walk	John 5:1-15
Jesus Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Jesus Feeds the Multitudes	John 6:1-15
Jesus gives sight to the Blind	John 9:1-38
Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:1-44

JOHN 11 - Lazarus Raised from the Dead

1. The preparation for the miracle (John 11:1-16)
 - Lazarus and his sisters (11:1-6)
 - Christ and the disciples (11:7-16)
2. The arrival of Jesus and his disciples in Bethany (John 11:17-37)
 - Martha encounters Christ (11:17-27)
 - Mary encounters Christ (11:28-37)
3. The raising of Lazarus(11:38-44)
4. The response of the Jews (11:45-57)

Only John records this miracle. Reason?

John 12:9-11 says that after this miracle, the Jews wanted to kill Lazarus to eliminate the evidence.

- John wrote much later than the other gospel writers. Some commentators think that the earlier writers did not record it so as to minimize the threat to Lazarus' life.
- By the time John wrote, Lazarus might have died or the threat to his life was minimal.

RECAP: Up to This Point,

Jesus presented Himself as the Giver of life to various people:

- To Nicodemus, He offered eternal life (3:16)
- To the Samaritan woman, the water of life (4:4)
- To the Official's son and the lame man, the restoring of life (4:50; 5:5-8)
- To the hungry multitude, the bread of life (6:35)
- To the believers in Jerusalem, the rivers of living water (7:38)
- To the blind man, the light of life (8:12; 9:35-38)
- To the sheep who followed him, the abundant life (10:10-11)

1-3 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. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

Jesus had nowhere to lay his head (Luke 9:58). But in Bethany, He had a place He could go to.

Mary had not poured perfume on Jesus yet (John 12).

Lazarus = "God is my help"

The sickness must have been serious, for the sisters were sufficiently alarmed to call Jesus back to the area where the religious leaders were out to get Him.

The appeal was on the basis of love. The sisters' implication was that if Jesus loved Lazarus (and them), he would return.

They were confident or expected that He would be prompt.

Expectations can set us up to feel like a victim...

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Mary

We must believe God is good and trust Him to do what is best.

Too often we put God in our own small box and expect Him to act, to do, to love according to what we think, and feel is the best.



We tend to insist on our own ways, our own plans, and refuse to give way to allow God to be God in our lives.

Our box of expectations labelled “what should be” can often become a trap.

That limits what God can do in our lives, because he is a God of surprising miracles and wonders.

Tragic loss can often become the occasion for spiritual growth and change.

God can and does heal the spirit through the power of prayer and by allowing the natural grief process to run its course.

God longs to mend shattered lives.

PETER AND DAY DAY: WHEN GOD TOOK OUR 5-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER AWAY

May 10, 2020, YMI (meant to be read as “Why am I?”)

<https://ymi.today/2020/05/peter-and-day-day-when-god-took-our-5-year-old-daughter-away/>



They acknowledge that there will likely not be any complete answers for what they’ve had to go through, but attested to the Lord’s unwavering comfort during a time of incomprehensible grief (Lamentations 3:32-33).

Louise passed on about 36 hours after she was first hospitalized.

Her condition was later diagnosed as a rare neurologic disease known as acute necrotizing encephalopathy of childhood (ANEC), a disease exclusively seen in East Asian infants and children who had been previously healthy.

We still miss her a lot. For me personally, I have cried daily thinking of her.

But this ordeal has helped me understand how God must have felt during the moments when Jesus was on the path of Calvary.

It gave me a first-person perspective of how truly and agonizingly painful it is to see one's own child dying.

Peter

Grief is one of the heart's natural responses to loss. When we grieve we allow ourselves to feel the truth of our pain and the intensity of our tragedy.

By our willingness to mourn, we slowly acknowledge, integrate, and accept the truth of our losses.

It takes courage to grieve, to honour the pain we carry. In touching the pain of recent and long-held griefs, we come face to face with God's love for us.

(4-6) Jesus Responds with a Delay

4-6 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."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Why did Jesus delay? Did Jesus intentionally let Lazarus die, when He could have saved him?

What is the Purpose of Miracles?

Is it to relieve human suffering?

- **If it is, then why would Jesus allow Lazarus to die?**
- **Why not heal him and avoid all the grief?**

Some miracles actually caused suffering, as the plagues on Egypt, the blindness of Elymas.

The purpose was to give evidence to confirm Jesus' claims were true.

It was 4 days since Lazarus was buried. According to Jewish superstition the soul of the departed person hung around the body for 3 days after it's death.

If the raising was performed within those 3 days, the Jews would have claimed that there was no miracle involved, as the spirit had simply returned to the body within the requisite time.

By performing the miracle on the 4th day, Jesus was demonstrating His power and authority over death itself, that even a decomposing body could be raised from the grave!

**Elderly Mum Dies At Yishun Flat, Unaware 30-year-old Daughter Stayed By Her Decomposing Body For 5 Days
12 May 2020**

<https://sg.style.yahoo.com/elderly-mum-dies-yishun-flat-120331805.html>

**His mother (2:4) and brothers' requests (7:3-10)?
Jesus responded in the same way.**

- **He first refused to grant their request, then He fulfilled it after asserting that He does things according to the timing and will of God, not man.**
- **Through His actions, Jesus demonstrated that His delays were not denials. They would bring greater glory to God.**

Why does God sometimes Delay?

What Should We Do When God Delays?

We must be willing to let God answer in his own time.

That means according to His schedule, His timetable — whenever He thinks is best!

How has God changed you when you've had to wait on His answer to prayer?

God is never late for an appointment that He schedules! Yet so often we feel as if we have turned up for our appointment, BUT GOD HAS NOT.

However, in God's infinite wisdom, His timing is unfailing and spot-on!

God's
Perfect
Timing



Sometimes it is years later that things we have prayed for actually materialize.

No matter what we do, we cannot run ahead of God's timing.

If we do, we are in danger of being overwhelmed by the discovery that we are not ready.

We have to learn to run our races in the time that God has ordained.



(7-10) Jesus Decides to Go to Judea and Jerusalem

7-8 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"

Jesus *could* have raised Lazarus from a distance. But He was willing to go to Judea and minister to Lazarus and his family, even though it was dangerous to go there.

9-10 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

- **The day's period is fixed, and nothing will shorten or lengthen it.**
- **This means that the days of life will be continued sufficiently for life's work.**
- **Jesus' enemies could not murder him until the hour arrived for his death, appointed by the Father.**



While we have opportunity, we must do the work that we can do. Otherwise, the time will come when we cannot work.

- **What opportunity are you forsaking?**
- **What would you regret not doing?**
- **What do you need to let go of in order to do it?**

(11-15) Jesus Tells Them Plainly of Lazarus' Death

11 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."

- 1.Sleep is a temporary thing; death too is not permanent.**
- 2.Sleep refreshes and rejuvenates; thus in the resurrection this mortal shall put on immortality**
- 3.Sleep is a time of rest; and the dead also "shall rest from their labours" (Rev 14:13)**

12-15 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."

Even at this point the disciples still misunderstood Jesus' claim to power over death although He had stated several times already:

5:21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

6:54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

8:51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.

10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Church tradition says that Thomas was called "The Twin" because he looked like Jesus, putting him at special risk.

If any among the disciples of Jesus were potential targets of persecution, it would be the one who *looked* like Jesus.

Perhaps Thomas thought Jesus would be killed. Here his heart was greatly attached to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thomas had no illusion that following Jesus would be easy.

Despite death threats, he followed Jesus with an undaunted courage. He preferred to die with Christ than to be left behind while Christ went on to Bethany without him.

Maybe we need to relook and revise the traditional image of Thomas.

As disciples of Christ, we should not be afraid of hard times as we look to the future.

Philippians 1:29 -- "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

(17-22) Martha Greets Jesus as He Comes to Bethany

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Remember the Jewish superstition?

It was accepted that after four days there was absolutely no hope of resuscitation.

How do you explain apparitions or appearances of the dead?

18-22 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

The size of the crowd simply made the miracle all the more amazing. It was not done in private.

There was no possibility of a hoax or fraud.

21-22 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

She still believes in Him *despite* the disappointment.

Can we say the same thing?

(23-27) I am the Resurrection and the Life

23-26 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

With this statement, Jesus overthrows everything we know about the way things work in this world. For a long time, death has ruled over men.

This is not the land of the living, but the land of the dying.

Death is our eternal companion. It is always to our left at an arm's length. It has always been watching us, and it always will until the day it taps us.

The thing to do when you're impatient with your life, turn to your left and ask advice from your death.

An immense amount of pettiness is dropped if your death makes a gesture to you, or if you catch a glimpse of it, or if you just catch the feeling that your companion is there watching you.

- Carlos Castaneda, American Writer, Anthropologist

The one who believes in Christ has eternal life that transcends physical death.

If he is living and believing, he will never die but will make an instant transition from the old life to the new life.



Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Embracing the reality of eternal life radically alters our mindset and perception.



Our values are prioritised and sanctified.

Money, things, time, family, friends, enemies, work and life itself are all adjusted and given their proper attention, significance and place.

26 Do you believe this? Jesus challenges Martha not to debate but to *believe*.

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Her statement of faith is exactly the response that Jesus wants from us.

(28-32) Mary's Regret And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." **When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.**

Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.**

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, **"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."**

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

This could be an affirmation statement of faith, saying that if Jesus were here they have no doubt at all that He would have healed Lazarus.

On the other hand, it can be seen as a criticism of what seemed to be the tardiness of Jesus.



(33-38a) A Deeply Moved Jesus Comes to the Tomb.

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

The response of Jesus illustrates His human and divine natures. Up to this point he had been perfectly calm, assuring Martha that her brother would rise and asserting that He was the resurrection and the life.

Until now...

Jesus intensely groaned in the spirit. In Greek, this literally means "to snort like a horse," implying anger and indignation.

Why would Jesus be angry?

It could not be that He was displeased with the sisters.

Perhaps it was His resentment against the ravages of death that had entered the human world because of sin.

34-35 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. **Jesus wept.**

Weeping κλαίουσαν (the word used for Mary in John 11:33) describes loud wailing.

Wept here Ἐδάκρυσεν indicates a quiet weeping. Jesus is greatly moved, but *not* out of control.

His weeping shows that He truly has compassion on mankind (as it was this compassion that moved Him to come to earth to die for us).

He grieved over Lazarus' death, even though He knew Lazarus would live again...

If we don't allow agonizing and distressing emotions to surface, then we are setting expectations for ourselves that even our Lord is unwilling to meet.

Nobody laments more than God Himself.

When we begin to understand God as a God who weeps, we begin to see Him as someone safe to run to as our refuge and comfort in the midst of our pain.

“Jesus wept” is not the shortest verse in Greek - **ἐδάκρυσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς**: three words instead of two (and sixteen characters).

1 Thessalonians 5:16, Πάντοτε χαίρετε (“Rejoice always”) is only fourteen characters.