

DEATH OF LAZARUS

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: John 11:1-16

1. Sickness - The one you love is sick... pray...
2. Delay - We may not know God's reasons, but we know God's character. Do we trust in the character of God? God's timing is different than ours. Do we trust in God's timing?
3. Light
4. Purpose - There is a purpose in all suffering. Not because we can see it, but because we can trust in the character and timing of God.

Summary:

- Do you trust in the character of God?
- Do you trust in the timing of God?
- Do you look upon death with both sadness and hope?

GET TALKING

Have you ever had a time in your life when someone said "it'll be fine, don't worry" about a situation you were sad or worried over? Share how it went.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before you read John 11:1-16, give thanks to God for His Word and ask Him to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage. Read the passage with an open heart and an open mind not looking for anything specific.

1. What parts or phrases stand out to you? What questions come to mind as you read the passage? Share and discuss your thoughts and questions.
2. Re-read verses 1-3.
 - a. When you have a loved one who is gravely sick, what do you do?
 - b. What do you expect as a result?
 - c. What do you think Mary and Martha expected from Jesus?
 - d. What does their message to Jesus say about the relationship they have with Him?
3. Jesus responds "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 doesn't go to Bethany for 2 days after Lazarus has already died, yet it is stated clearly that He loves each of sisters and Lazarus. Read Colossians 1:15-18.
 - a. What do these 2 passages help you understand about God's timing and purpose?
 - b. How is our perspective different from God's when it comes to difficult and tragic situations?
 - c. What can give you hope even as we dwell in sadness?
4. Even as we can look at this situation in isolation of what Jesus' bigger purpose was while on earth, Jesus was using it to continue His work given to Him by His Father. What do you think God wants you to learn from John 11:7-10? What is God calling you to do with your time on earth that will bring Him glory?

PRAYER

Suffering will not be avoided in this life, especially as a follower of Jesus. We know that death is certain, but for those of us who believe Jesus died on a cross for our sins and overcame death through His resurrection, we will have eternal life. This allows us to look upon death not only with sadness for the loss it brings, but with hope for the life it brings. Use your prayer time to praise Jesus for His sacrifice and goodness, to recommit to living a life that glorifies God, and to pray for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus.