

Bible Study
John 11
December 17, 2024 12 p.m.
Youth Pastor Jordan Washington

So we find that Lazarus was sick. At this particular time Jesus was being rejected by almost everyone. It seems that He was an unwelcome guest in most homes. He was walking around preaching and proclaiming that He was One with God, the Son of God himself.

Making these kinds of claims, some thought He was crazy or demon-possessed. His own family was even having difficulty with Him at this time. They were apparently so embarrassed by His claims and the rumors of His insanity that on one occasion they traveled a great distance to bring Him home before He was harmed.

But there was one family who always opened their home to Jesus when He was in and around Jerusalem—the family of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, who were brother and sisters. They lived in Bethany, a suburb about two miles outside Jerusalem. Their closeness to Jesus is the reason the sisters felt so free to interrupt His evangelistic tour with the request to help their sick brother. Note Jesus' great love for this family throughout this passage.

Intro Illustration: The importance of having a plan

I. God's Plan (v. 6-14)

1. Our problems can create doubt in His plan
 - a. His timing (v. 6)
 - b. His Purpose (v. 11, 15)
 - c. His outcome (v. 11, 15)
2. Nothing can deter His plan
3. His plan will always:
 - Meet our needs
 - Bring Him Glory

II. The Lord's Presence Brings Change (v. 21-36)

1. Jesus operates with perfect timing
 - a. He is always on time *ILL: He is in a heavenly time zone*
 - b. He knows exactly what we need and when we need it *ILL: Jake knowing what His baby needed*

2. The sisters had faith in Jesus' presence
 - a. Were in pain and did not understand Christ's delay
*They vented to the Lord

3 things we
can learn from
Laz's sisters

- Their pain didn't stifle their belief
 - They knew Christ had all authority
 - Possessed an eternal perspective
- b. Only Jesus is the resurrector of body and spirit
 - Christ has defeated the power of death
 - There is an eternity ahead of us to live with or apart from Him
3. God is sensitive to the pain of the sisters
 - a. Jesus did not distance himself those who were hurting
 - b. Jesus felt compassion and great love for Lazarus and family
 - c. Christ's love is demonstrated through action

III. Risen Perspective (v.40-46)

1. Faith grants us intimacy with God
 - a. Our faith allows us to access the depth of God
 - b. Christ reveals himself as divine (Trinitarian implications)
 - c. Faith will be strengthened *ILL: Physical Therapy*
2. The power of Christ should be on display in our lives
 - a. Christ uses the faithful to fulfill His purpose
 - b. Our faith is contagious