

Questions

1. Because Jesus loved them, he waited. How can this story encourage you when answers to your prayers appear to be delayed?
2. What lessons from verses 17-37 do learn for when we engaged with grieving people?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life”?
4. What is your view on emotions? Have you considered that emotions are an essential part of being human? Why is that good? We are also still yet infected by sin, so what does that say about our emotions?
5. What do Jesus' tears tell you about him? What difference does it make to how you feel about him today?
6. What would it look like for you to apply John 11:33-36 to your life?
7. Read Revelation 21:4. How should this shape and inform our grieving, hurting, and suffering in this life?

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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JESUS, FRIEND OF SINNERS

*Encounters with Jesus
in the Gospels*

Jesus, The Friend Who Loves

John 11:1-46

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Jesus—the resurrection and the life—loves you and sees you in your grief and pain, and sympathetically draws near with compassion and hope.

In John 11:1-46 we see 3 facets of Jesus' love for the brokenhearted.

The main objective for John recording Lazarus' resurrection was belief in Jesus. (John 20:30-31)

John 11:1-16 | The Wise Love of Jesus

Here is the “wise love of Jesus.” The connection between verses 5 and 6 is seen in the word “so”, which speaks to result. Because Jesus loved them, when heard the news, he waited.

Jesus waited, so that when Lazarus was raised, there would be no doubt it was a miracle. This is the “wise love of Jesus.”



Jesus' love sometimes means delayed answers to our most fervent of prayers. This account should guard us from interpreting God's delays as a lack of love. Rather, this account encourages us to presume God's timing is evidence of His love for us.

John 11:17-37 | The Compassionate Love of Jesus

John 11:17-27 | Martha

John 11:28-37 | Mary

Jesus—truly God and truly Man—was the most truly human person who ever lived. You want to know what a true human is really supposed to look like, look at Jesus. And Jesus deeply felt.

What we see are two fundamental approaches to bring initial-care to those hurting, grieving, or suffering. Broadly, one approach is, we bring God's truth and promises to bear, and the other is, we weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15)

John 11:38-46 | The Hope-Securing Love of Jesus

I called these verses the "hope-securing love of Jesus" because not only does Lazarus' resurrection secure Jesus' death (John 11:53), but Lazarus' resurrection points to the greater resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was the love of God in Christ Jesus that drove him to the cross. And our hope for eternal life is bound up in Jesus' empty tomb.