

2025 04 06/ John 11:17-44  
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## I am the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus was at Galilee, Bethabara, about twenty miles from Bethany. In Bethany, lived Martha, Mary, and Lazarus whom Jesus loved. Jesus liked being with them very much. This family opened their home for Jesus and His disciples. (Luke 10:38) It was a comfortable place for Jesus. It was a place where Jesus and His disciples could slip off their sandals and relax.

One day, a messenger arrived with the sad news that Jesus' dear friend Lazarus was sick. Jesus sent him back the next day with the encouraging message in John 11:4. **"Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."** Then Jesus waited two more days before he left for Bethany, and by the time he and his disciples arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four day. This means that Lazarus had died the very day the messenger left to contact Jesus.

The schedule of events looks something like this:

- Day 1: The messenger comes to Jesus. Lazarus died on that day. He was buried according to Jewish custom. Jews buried the dead after 8 hours have passed.
- Day 2: The messenger returns to Bethany
- Day 3: Jesus waits another day then departs
- Day 4: Jesus arrives in Bethany. The fourth day is the day that all hope disappeared, and the body was in the process of entirely decaying.

When the messenger arrived back home, he found Lazarus dead already. How confusing is Jesus' message to the sisters! "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death." To their mind, it was the word that they cannot understand at all! Their brother had already died and was buried. Jesus was urging them to believe his word no matter how discouraging and impossible the circumstances might appear.

No doubt the disciples were perplexed about several matters. First of all, if Jesus loved Lazarus so much, why did he permit him to get sick? Even more, why did he delay going to the sisters? For that matter, could he not have healed Lazarus at a distance, as he did the nobleman's son? (John 4:43-54) Bible said that because Jesus loved them, Jesus delayed! Yet it looks that Jesus' behavior seems to contradict this love.

We might say to God, "Why do you delay in our life's urgent matters? If you love me, why don't you respond immediately? Don't you see how needy I am?" These are the stories of our lives. We too ask, why doesn't Jesus drop everything he is doing, and rush over to see Lazarus?

I want to bring the first question of Wester minster's catechism? **"What is the chief end of man?"** and the answer is **"It is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever"**. What is it again? To glorify God and enjoy him forever. Human life's purpose is not for our comforts, health, and wealth. Glorification and enjoyment are attached together.

Jesus said that Lazarus death was for the glory of God! What is the relation between love, suffering, and glory of Jesus? In other words, it was more loving to put Lazarus through death and his sisters through grief, if that would reveal more of God's glory to them and more of the glory of Christ. Jesus loves us by showing us who Jesus is, divinity. Jesus' love for them did what was best for them. Delay, death, grief was best for them! Humanly, it might be difficult to understand. But it is true.

God's love for his own children is not a pampering love. It is perfect love. The fact that he loves us, and we love him is no guarantee that we will be protected from the problems and pains of life. After all, the Father loves His son. And yet the Father permitted His beloved son to drink the cup of sorrow and experience the shame and pain of the cross. We must never think that love and suffering are incompatible. Certainly, they unite in Jesus Christ.

It is not so important that we Christians live comfortably. But it is important that we glorify God in all that we do. It is human chief end. It is **the way Jesus loves us**. The content of his love for us is **to give us himself and show us his glory!**

God loves us mainly by giving us *himself* and all that he is for us in Jesus. Jesus loves us mainly by giving us *himself* and all that God is for us in him. Don't measure the love of God for you by how much health, wealth and comfort he brings into your life. If that were the measure of God's love, then God must have hated Paul!

**Measure God's love for you is revealed by how much of himself he shows you.** When we get to know the glimpse of who God is, it lets us experience ecstatic joy of his presence. Glorification and eternal enjoyment come together.

What is God's love? John 3:16 states, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." Jesus tells that **the eternal life is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom God sent. (John 17:3)

**The essence of eternal life is the never-ending consistent knowing of God the Father and God the Son.** Deep knowledge in God. For God so loved the world, at the cost of his Son's life, he brought us into an everlasting knowing, admiring, loving, enjoying of himself and Jesus. The love of God is the gift of himself. And **the greatness of that love** increases in proportion to the greatness of his glory.

**In John 14:21, Jesus says, "Those who accept my commandment and obey them are the one who love me. Because they love me, my Father will love them. and I will love him and reveal myself to him."** What a wonderful statement! "I will love you, and reveal myself to you." That is how I will love you. God doesn't love you the way people of the world expect to be loved. The love of God is the gift of his glorious self.

V.5 says that Jesus loved Lazarus and Mary and Martha, so, he stayed two days longer and let them walk through the valley of the shadow of death. And then, he went and showed them his glory. Mary, Martha, and the mourners were not able to understand because it didn't look like love! All were questioning Jesus' love for them.

Martha said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” She questioned, but she hasn’t given up on him. “But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus answers, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha says to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus says to her, Martha you don’t have to wait until then. **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”** It meant that “I am revealing my power and my glory to you, because I love you.”

“He cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”

He is the Resurrection. He is the life. This is the glory of Jesus. Jesus raised Lazarus because he is the resurrection. Lazarus is the first example of our future resurrection. When Jesus comes back, those who are his will rise like Lazarus, and have everlasting fellowship with God.

When he comes back, it will be the time of God’s final, glorious renovation of all things, including our bodies. Friends, you will be raised from the dead and shine like the sun in the kingdom of your Father. Lazarus is a preview of your resurrection. Jesus is coming back to this earth in power and great glory. And this story is only a glimpse of that glory.

And therefore, it is God saying to you in this service: “I love you. My love for you is not sparing you suffering and death. **It is the gift of myself. My glory.** Do you see me? Do you see me for who I really am? Come to me. I have much more to show you.”

Love means giving us what we need most. And **what we need most is not healing, but a full and endless experience of the glory of God. Love means giving us what will bring us the fullest and longest joy. Always interpret Your Suffering by God’s Love; Don’t Interpret His Love By Your Suffering.**