

MEDITATION 3: GLORY IN THE HARD THINGS

Have you heard the story of Lazarus? It might be familiar—because of its ending. We find it in John 11. In this story the man is named Lazarus. His two sisters send word to Jesus, their friend: “Lord, the one you love is ill.”

When Jesus hears it, he says: “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”

But Lazarus dies. And by the time Jesus makes his way to town, Lazarus is buried. His family greets Jesus with mixed emotions.

Jesus hears and feels it all—the pain, the grumbling, the frustration and doubt.

“Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” Jesus says. “Lazarus, come out.” And, as you probably know, Lazarus does.

The story of Lazarus is hard to understand. How can Jesus know the whole thing from the beginning and claim that Lazarus’ sickness is for the glory of God – for greatness that lasts (from Week 1)?

In a dramatic yet simple way, the Lazarus story reminds us that **life is hard—and Jesus cares**. We don’t always understand what God is doing. His glory doesn’t always show up in the way we imagined or prayed for. **But his glory can shine in our darkest situations.**

Through the heartache of Lazarus’s death, the people see a miracle—a miracle that causes many to believe. Jesus’ words prove true. God’s glory shows up in such a powerful way that for a man named Lazarus, death itself is undone!

Today: Where do you see glory in the story of Lazarus? What encouragement do you take from it, and what do you find hard to understand? Think of a tough situation in your life, or the life of someone you love. Ask God to help you see this situation with his eyes. Ask for his glory to shine in your darkness.



SCAVENGER HUNT

___ Something Yellow

___ Easter Basket

___ Cross

___ Bunny

___ Egg Shaped Chocolate

___ Butterfly

___ Flower

___ New Life

___ Word “April”

___ Chick

___ Jelly Beans

___ Pink Crayon

___ Rock

___ Candle

___ Lamb

___ Purple Pencil

___ Number 3

___ Umbrella

___ Animal Tracks

___ Plastic Egg

