

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

PART 3

Text: John 11:1-4

This is the third message in a series called “For the glory of God”. The phrase “the glory of God” refers to when God can be seen...either his attributes, power or presence. The meaning of life on earth is to glorify God meaning that through our lives, God can be seen. God is glorified in us when our character reflects his character. He is glorified when we do his will - **Matthew 6:10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. So God can be glorified in both who we are, and what we do. Sometimes God is glorified in our circumstances. The things that happen around us and to us that we have no control over.

For the sake of time, I did not read the whole chapter which gives the entire account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. When he gets the news that Lazarus is dangerously sick, he immediately reveals that this circumstance's end is not Lazarus's death, but the glory of God and that he might be glorified too. He remains where he is for two more days and when he finally arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has both died and been buried for 4 days.

Martha is disappointed and Mary is heartbroken and they both make the same statement to Jesus but in different tones “Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.” 2025 paraphrase “Lord, you let us down!” Jesus had a brief conversation with both ladies and went to the tomb. After a short prayer, he confidently calls Lazarus to come forth and he does miraculously. But Jesus said that this circumstance was for the glory of God and his glory...so what was seen by this his involvement in this circumstance and what can it teach us today?

- **The Person of Christ** – He showed his disciples that he had perfect knowledge of when and where he needed to be. He displayed that when it looked like he was four days late, he was right on time and never out of control of the situation. When Martha conversed with Jesus, she said **John 11:22-27** But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. Many Jews came from Jerusalem came to comfort Mary and Martha, Jews that did not believe what Mary and Martha believed about Jesus. To them he's just the

son of Mary and Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth. He's a deceiver leading the nation astray. But when he stood before the tomb, there was a crowd. His disciples were there whose faith wasn't perfect, Mary and Martha, and a host of Jews from Jerusalem that murmured **John 11:37** And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? He thanked the Father publicly for hearing him always and then he called Lazarus back from death and the grave. He displayed that he was indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, and that he is the resurrection and the life! And many believed on him that day because of what they saw.

- **The Passion of Christ** – the word passion means an intense desire for something or strong and barely controllable emotions. The passion of Jesus was on display during this circumstance. The Holy Spirit takes a pause in the account and tells us in **John 11:5** Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. And that verse is sandwiched in between him hearing about Lazarus's condition and not moving for two days. JUST BECAUSE THE LORD DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY DO SOMETHING WHEN WE ASK OR WHAT WE WANT HIM TO DO, DOES NOT MEAN HE DOESN'T LOVE US! We've already gone through the conversation between Martha and Jesus. Now let's look at the interaction between Mary and Jesus **John 11:32-36** Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! If there is anything harder than suffering, it's watching someone you love suffer. When Jesus saw Mary heartbroken and weeping and the crowd also mourning...he was moved to weep also. That shows us that if something is strongly affecting us, he has empathy for us. He wept hard because the Jews said Behold, how he loved him! The Lord was also hurt by the unbelief of the crowd **John 11:37-38** And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.
- **The Power of Christ** – The Jews didn't embalm the dead but buried them the same day they died. On the fourth day, decomposition starts. The Bible calls it corruption. Jesus not only displayed his ability to give life back to the dead but to renew the body from corruption. He is the resurrection! Our bodies may go to the grave and back to dust but come resurrection morning...we'll get up in a glorified body

fashioned like unto his. Death is the ultimate weapon in the devil's arsenal, but Christ displayed his mighty power over what all of humanity is afraid of.

- **The Point of view of Christ** – Our point of view and the Lord's are completely different. We think in terms of our needs, but the Lord is thinking of the needs of many. Abraham and Issac's point of view was only their side of the mountain they were walking up. But God saw every side of the mountain at the same time and when they were going up one side, there was a ram going up the other side that would take Isaac's place on the altar. When we pray about our circumstances, don't lock in on just your point of view. Leave options open for a much larger point of view. If Jesus would have immediately come to the bedside of Lazarus, he could've raised him off his sick bed and restored him, but only a few would've seen it. Many times, while we're praying over our circumstances, a crowd forms around us. Lazarus's funeral brought a lot of people to their home that had no idea about what they were about to see. Our crowd has a lot of the same people in it...family, friends, coworkers, acquaintances that see our circumstance and what a pickle it is. And many of them are unbelievers and people with weak or little faith that God has chosen your circumstance to glorify himself in. When Lazarus walked out, the faith of the disciples was strengthened, Mary and Martha were convinced that Jesus really did love them, and a whole lot of critics and skeptics became rock solid believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **The Plan of Redemption** – It's by divine design that Jesus raised Lazarus on the fourth day specifically. It's a picture of God's plan for redemption. There are approximately four thousand years between Adam and Jesus. The fall of Adam introduced sin into the race which resulted in death. For four thousand years humanity was born in sin, lived in sin and died going to the grave. **2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. Four of God's days passed from the fall until came into the world, shed his blood on the cross, died unto sin and was buried, rose again the third day and since that time...dead men have been given life again, the Holy Spirit has been restored to all those that have been saved and we will get victory over death and the grave because Jesus appeared on the fourth day to take away our sin and destroy the works of the devil. For the first three days of creation there was light but no source. The sun was not created until the fourth day...from Adam until Christ there was spiritual light in the world but not the source. But Jesus declared in John 8:12 I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.