

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

Grace and Light on the Way to Glory

Group Discussion Questions based on the sermon by Jamie Brown (John 11:7-10)

Scripture Reflection

1. John 11:7-10 - What stands out to you in these verses? How do they speak to your current season of life?
2. Why do you think Jesus delayed going to Bethany? What does this teach us about God's timing?

Themes of Grace and Light

3. Jamie Brown says, "Jesus doesn't take orders. Jesus takes initiative." How does this challenge or comfort you in your walk with Christ?
4. What does it mean that Jesus' movement is not reaction but action? Can you think of a time in your life when this was true?
5. How do you interpret the phrase "grace that moves at the impulse of the Father"? What does that look like practically?

Living in the In-Between

6. The sermon emphasizes the "in-between" - the time between promise and fulfillment. How do you personally handle seasons of waiting, weeping, or uncertainty?
7. What spiritual practices help you stay grounded when you're in the "in-between"?
8. How can we encourage one another in our group to trust God during these waiting periods?

Light in Darkness

9. Jesus says, "If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble..." What does it mean to walk in the light of Christ in a dark world?
10. How does the metaphor of light help you understand Jesus' role in your life more clearly?

Application and Encouragement

11. What part of this sermon gave you the most hope or encouragement?

12. How can we remind ourselves and others that "we belong to the day" even when the world feels dark?

13. What does "headed toward resurrection" mean for your daily life and decisions?