



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 11:1-16
From Sermon 5.26.24

Read *John 11:1-16*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Chapter 11 begins with a new setting and several new characters. We are introduced to the town of Bethany and some friends of Jesus—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. The famous account of Jesus and Lazarus does bring up several important issues that most still struggle with even today. 1) Why do those who genuinely love God have great trials. 2) Why does God not move quickly to heal, deliver, or restore?

1. This account in John highlights a great confusion and hurt over Lazarus' death and Jesus' delay and apparent inaction. It begs the questions of "why," we often ask. Or, where was God? To begin, list as many reasons as you can as to why "bad" things happen to begin with:

- Universal Total Depravity/there are no "innocent" people
- Sinful/Fallen/Cursed universe: natural disasters, sun, illness, accidents, aging...
- Our own sinful choices/consequences
- The sin of others
- The wrath of God
- Attacks by the enemy
- The loving discipline of God
- For the Glory of God/His own reasons [the reason given for Lazarus' death]

2. From Sunday: What is the prerequisite for a miracle? An impossible situation.

2a. List some impossible situations that resulted in miracles in the Bible. Israel's flight from Pharaoh and facing the Red Sea. The three teens in Daniel facing the fiery furnace. The Virgin birth. The healings in the Gospels. Peter's deliverance from prison...

3. Discuss the very popular "prosperity/blessing" teaching of today's church. Does God owe deliverance and miracles to His people? Is He obligated to act according to our wishes? No to both. Everything we receive is an act of grace = undeserved. God is sovereign, not man. He makes demands of us—not the other way around. See also *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

4. Mary and Martha are models of biblical intercessory ministry. Discuss how they interceded on their brother's behalf. They sought Jesus and only Jesus—where their faith was found. They trusted that Jesus had the power and heart for deliverance. See also *James 5:14-15. Acts 12:11-14*

5. Regarding the "sleep" metaphor from verses 11-13. It's often used to describe the physical death of believers. Why do you suppose the Holy Spirit chose that? Various thoughts and insights
See also *1 Corinthians 11:27-30 & 15:51 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15*

6. How do you reconcile Jesus' "*I am glad for your sakes that I was not there*" statement with passages like *John 14:13-14. Various Personal Answers*