

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Seven Signs of John Series

These questions are for the **November 5, 2023** message, "Raising Lazarus, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (John 11:1-16) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE UNEXPECTED WAYS CHRIST REVEALS HIS LOVE, NOTE . . .

1. The vital purpose our Lord discloses. (1-4)
 - a. Jesus reveals his great love and God's great glory.
 - i. The illness of Lazarus calls for a response from Jesus.
 - ii. Jesus is fully aware of Lazarus' illness, and knows that it will not end in death.
 - b. Even heavy afflictions are meant to emphasize the glory of God.
 - i. Jesus' response brings him to Bethany, where his life own is in danger.
 - ii. We will see that Jesus is ultimately both the resurrection and the life. (11:25)
2. The strategic delay our Lord creates. (5-6)
 - a. Jesus delays his coming to the immediate aid of those he loves.
 - i. He delays his coming because of great love.
 - ii. We think we need immediacy, but God often makes us wait.
 - b. When Jesus arrives after the worst possible outcome, his grace is most treasured.
 - i. God loves us too much to keep our schedule.
 - ii. Let this settle in our hearts: Jesus is life.
3. The threatening condition our Lord faces. (7-10)
 - a. Jesus has now returned to the place of danger, where the Jews want to kill him.
 - b. Jesus is willing to enter dangerous places to show God's love and reveal God's glory.
4. The mature faith our Lord desires. (11-16)
 - a. Lazarus has died, but Jesus raises him, "so that you may believe." (15)
 - b. Thomas (the 'doubter, Jn 20:27-29) is confident they would die with Jesus, if necessary.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Illness and affliction are often meant to help us cry out to God (3) and wait upon his response so that we will feel the weight of his glory and love. In what way does illness and affliction accomplish this purpose in your life?
2. Based on #2, above: Respond to this: "God loves us too much to keep our schedule."
3. Based on #3, above: Jesus does not "play it safe." He moves toward danger because that danger, and death and resurrection is God's will for him, and accomplishes what is best for his people. Discuss this: even if it leads to death, following God's will is 'walking in the light.'
4. Based on #4, above: The purpose behind waiting is a complete embracing (belief / faith / trust) of this reality: Jesus, and only Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Even when we die. Discuss.