

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Seven Signs of John Series

These questions are for the **November 19, 2023** message, "Raising Lazarus, Part 3." Please read the sermon passage (John 11:38-57) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS THE ONE WHO IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, NOTE . . .

1. The authority demonstrated by Jesus Christ. (38-44)
 - a. Jesus calls out to raise Lazarus from the dead with the power of his word.
 - i. Martha emphasizes the fact that Lazarus is surely dead.
 - ii. Jesus emphasizes his authority and the presence of God's glory.
 - b. God's delays are not always God's denials.
 - i. Sometimes God delays to ensure that he alone will receive the glory.
 - ii. Jesus calls for obedience, even while he offers no explanations.
 - c. Jesus performs this clear sign so that we believe that he alone is resurrection and life.
 - i. There is a call to Martha, to the onlookers and to us, the readers.
 - ii. Jesus thanks God aloud, in prayer, so that God is glorified.
2. The hostility generated toward Jesus Christ. (45-57)
 - a. While many believed, many others turned to the perceived authority of the Pharisees.
 - b. Caiaphas, the High Priest, does not believe in any kind of resurrection (Sadducee).
 - i. He leads the Jews in planning the execution of Jesus, prophesying that "It is better for one man to die for the people."
 - ii. And Caiaphas becomes a prophet, announcing the effect of Jesus' death.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Jesus' delays are not always denials. How has Jesus used waiting in your life to increase your appreciation for his glory and gracious provisions?
2. Based on #1, above: Jesus clearly expects his followers to obey him, in word and deed, even while we wait, and before we understand what he is doing. Describe a time when you failed or struggled to obey God while you awaited his intervention. Also describe how he was gracious to you in that season of waiting.
3. Based on #2, above: Some people who saw Lazarus raised from the dead by the power of Jesus' word went and asked the Pharisees what they thought about the sign. And we will have many people who go and check with their perceived authority before going all-in with Jesus. How does our knowledge of this tendency help our prayers, appeals and focus?
4. Based on #2, above: Jesus was consistent and focused though the crowds hated him and plotted his murder. Jesus would later say that we should remember that the "world hated me before they hated you." (John 15:18) Jesus then proceeded to pray for consistency and focus in our commitment, despite worldly opposition. In what ways are we good at remaining consistent and focused even when the world hates us? In what ways do we need to improve?