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## John 11:1-57

(Basic Bible in English)

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**Chapter 11 reaches a high point in Christ's ministry. After this, the people are completely divided: they're either for Him or against Him. If they're against Him, they're going to plot to kill Him. He raises Lazarus here, who has been dead for 4 days. He has a special love for Lazarus, and He beats the ultimate punishment for sin – death – by raising Lazarus. Our English translation is so weak about how Jesus really felt about Lazarus. They were very close.**

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**1 ¶ Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.** There are 7 miracles that Jesus does in the book of John. He's come to these people who are good friends of His, and sees Lazarus is sick.

**2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)**

**3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.** Jesus' dear friend Lazarus is sick. They sent a message to Jesus that Lazarus is sick, and He was about 2 days' journey away at that time.

**4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.** Jesus says this will be the ultimate miracle for the glory of God. This particular miracle will show how wonderful and powerful God really is.

**5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.**

**6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.** Jesus didn't come immediately.

**7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.** This is where Jesus escaped the people who were going to stone Him.

**8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?**

**9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.** So many people conjecture up about how long a day was in the Old Testament. A day is 12 hours long then and now. There are 12 hours in a night, too.

**10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.** Jesus is referring to a situation that is going to occur, when the people will crucify Him and extinguish the light that Jesus brings to the world; not the sunlight, moonlight, or star light.

**11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.** This is an important passage. So many people have lost loved ones, and Jesus speaks of death as sleep. It's a temporary state for the body until Jesus gathers us up for the eternal life He's going to give us one day.

**12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.** The disciples thought he was sleeping, but really Lazarus was dead. But to Jesus, death of our bodies is but a nap.

**13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.** The disciples were confused.

**14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.**

**15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.** Jesus said He was glad He wasn't there because He loves Lazarus so much He probably wouldn't have let Lazarus die and would've healed him. Then He wouldn't be able to perform this great miracle that shows how great God really is. Everything is done for a very important reason, even the crucifixion of Christ. We wouldn't be able to be saved without the crucifixion of Christ.



**16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.** Didymus means twins.

**17 ¶ Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.** They didn't embalm people like the Egyptians. The body laid in the grave for 4 days. The reason He waited for 4 days because the Jews believed the spirit of the person who died hung around the body for 3 days, so at 4 days there was no chance of the person coming back to life. By waiting to raise Lazarus after 4 days, it confirmed to the people that Lazarus was really dead, no question about it.

**18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:**

**19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.**

Evidently Lazarus was some kind of a prominent individual, probably wealthier than others in the area.

**20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.** The sisters Martha and Mary had two totally different personalities.

**21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.** Martha said I know if You had been here, Lazarus would not have died. You would have healed him.

**22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.** She had complete faith in the Lord, knowing He could still heal Lazarus even though he's been dead for 4 days.

**23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.**

**24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.** See the complete faith Martha has in Jesus.

**25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:** When someone dies and you know they were saved before, you can rejoice that you will see them again in heaven. It is sad when you go to a funeral and don't know if they were saved and you don't know if you'll ever see them again or where they'll spend eternity.

**26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

**27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.** Christ means the anointed one from God.

**28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.** Martha ran in the house, got a bunch of mourners around (there were professional mourners in those days. They would be paid to cry and scream and really put on a show of sadness at funerals) and told Mary Jesus was here and is asking for her to come out and see Him.

**29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.**


**30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.**

**31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.** The mourners figured she was going to the grave to mourn her brother. They didn't know Jesus was outside.

**32 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.** Again, Mary tells Jesus if He was there earlier, Lazarus wouldn't have died. Jesus could've saved/healed him.

**33 ¶ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,** This weeping means Mary was really screaming and crying at the top of her voice, the worst mourning sound a human can make. This groaning spirit means Jesus is not mourning, but really agitated and mad in His spirit. Jesus reaches a point here where He is looking at the death of loved one, seeing all the mourners screaming and hollering like it is the end of the world, and He knows it's not the end. He sees a lot of unbelief. He is here, the light, He is the one who can give us eternal life, and He sees the people not believing in His ability to give the saved eternal life. Notice Jesus only does what only He can do. He lets us do what we are capable of doing supernaturally, and then He steps in.

**34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.**



**35 Jesus wept.** This word wept is a deep internal crying with outward tears, not a loud screaming and carrying on.

**36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!** This is the greatest highest love a person can have for another, but our English translation does not differentiate between the 3 different levels of love like the Greek language does.

**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?** Couldn't the one who healed the blind man have stopped this death, the people are asking now.

**38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.** The groaning is a deep internal agitation at the people for their carrying on and display of nonbelief. In those days, they left a dead body in a cave, rolled a big stone in front of it, and let the body decay. Then later they'd collect the bones of the deceased and put them in a box. They used the cave over and over again for this process.

**39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.** Jesus could've moved the stone with His thoughts, but He does not because humans are capable of moving the stone. Don't expect God to do everything for you. No. God helps those who help themselves. You have to try your best and do all you can, and then God will step in and do what you cannot. Martha tells Jesus won't the body stink with decay? It's been laying in the cave for 4 days now.

**40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?** Jesus reminds Martha, didn't I tell you if you believe I would show you the glory of God?

**41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.**

**42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.** Jesus is doing this openly and showing the Jewish people that He is in direct communication with God. He does this over and over again, but still some don't believe.

**43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.**

**44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.** Again, Jesus does not go up to Lazarus and remove the wrappings. He tells the people to do it because they are able to do this.

**45 ¶ Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.**

**46 But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.** This right here divided everybody sharply. If you were for Him, you love Him completely. If you were against Him, you plotted to kill Him.

**47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.**


**48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.** They're concerned about their position of power. Greed is blatantly displayed here, not the wonder of the miracle Jesus just performed.

**49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,**

**50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.** The high priest starts the murder plot against Jesus so they don't lose their power and status.

**51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;** Jesus dies for the whole world, not just that nation.

**52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.** This is referring to the Gentiles. Jesus wasn't only going to die for the Jewish nation, but for the whole world.





**53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.**

**54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.**

**55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.** Here is the Passover. It is a purification time.

**56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?** The big issue going around is will Jesus come to the feast?

**57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.** They issued a decree in Jerusalem: if you see Jesus, let us know where He is so we can take Him captive.