

## Study of the Gospel of John

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### When It Is Dangerous to Follow Jesus - John 11:1-16

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus[a] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas, called the Twin,[b] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- The two primary purposes of Jesus
  - Jesus and the Father be glorified
  - The Disciples faith be strengthened

#### Today's focus

- The Disciple faith to be strengthened
- Five truths
  1. God's will as it relates to a dangerous security; vs 7-8
    - Christianity that is absent of danger is absent in authenticity
    - Use ISIS taking Syrian Christians as an example, this is God's providence
  2. God's providence as it relates to controlled chaos; vs 9-10
    - Most people did their work in the light of the sun as it was safe, but the proverbial saying had a deeper meaning.

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- As long as the Son performed his Father's will, he was safe.
- Trust in the sovereignty of God, as he has providentially assigned a point of death for everyone.

**3. God's providence as it relates to a shadow of death; vs 11-14**

- The main point is not about Lazarus, but about the Disciples faith being strengthened.
- Five Death truths
  1. Death is universal; vs 11
  2. Death is profitable for those in Christ; vs 11b, Hebrews 2:13-14
  3. Death is misunderstood; vs 12
  4. Death is clarified; vs 14
  5. Death is defeated; vs 23

**4. God's power as it relates to Gods initiative assertions; vs 15**

- How often are we blind to the glory of God and are too scared to follow Jesus into the danger?
- Our safety conscious Christianity is killing us

**5. God's grace as it relates to a radically altered identity; vs 16**

- Jesus summons to go back to Judea shook the Disciples, but Thomas shows his fearlessness and and says "lets go and die with Jesus".
- Despite Thomas' weaknesses it is apparent that he is willing to die with Christ.

In conclusion, are you willing to go into the danger zone with Jesus? One thing is known, you will never know the glories of God if you do not get out of your comfort zone and become reckless for Christ. Our self preservation has cultivated an immunity to God's power. Can you live without it?