

The Gospel According to John

“Receiving the Comfort of Christ”

John 11:1-15 (plus)



John 11:1-6

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

John 11:7-10

Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?”

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. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

John 11:11-15

This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.” The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.

So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”

Main Idea

If you are to receive the comfort that Christ holds out to you, you must learn to confess Him, gladly entrusting your whole life into His sovereign care.

Receiving the Comfort of Christ

Why did Jesus allow Lazarus' sickness and death?



John 11:3

“Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

Did Jesus allow this?

John 10:30

“I and the Father are one.”

The oneness of the Father and Son includes a oneness of mission and purpose which must mean that Christ was one with the Father in Lazarus' sickness and death.

What was Jesus' purpose?

So that God would be glorified.

John 11:4

But when Jesus heard this, He said,
“This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God,
so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

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**“This sickness is not to end in death,
but for the glory of God,**

so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

The Son did not come on His own initiative or with His own agenda; He came in oneness with the Father for the one purpose of glorifying God.

Romans 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are *all things*.

To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

John 11:4

But when Jesus heard this, He said,

“**This** sickness **is** not to end in death, but **for the glory of God,**
so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

This is the purpose of your life, too!

Are you ok with that?

What was Jesus' purpose?

So that God would be glorified.

So that the Son would be glorified by it.

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The demonstration of Jesus' power to give life was a demonstration of His glory.

But this is not a glory distinct or separate from the glory of God since Jesus is *the* image and glory of God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, **glory as of the only begotten
from the Father**, full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,”
is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light
of **the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Christ.

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is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light

of the knowledge of the glory of God **in the face of Christ.**

Our comfort in suffering and our
hope in trouble is the manifold
glory of our Savior!

What was Jesus' purpose?

So that God would be glorified.

So that the Son would be glorified by it.

So that the disciples would believe.

John 11:14-15

So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe.”

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so that you may believe."

Lazarus' suffering served Christ's purpose
of bringing forth faith from His disciples.

Faith is not needed when all is
as we expect or desire.

James 1:2-3

Consider it all joy, my brethren,
when you encounter various trials,
knowing that **the testing of your faith**
produces endurance.

Receiving the Comfort of Christ

Why did Jesus allow Lazarus' sickness and death?

How did Jesus' delay work
to grow their faith?



Jesus did intentionally delay!

John 11:5-6

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Therefore, when He heard that he was sick,
He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

Jesus did intentionally delay!

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John 11:5-6

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Therefore, when He heard that he was sick,

He then **stayed two days longer** in the place where He
was.

“...so that you may believe.”

How did the delay grow their faith?

It gave them another opportunity
to confess Christ's person.

John 11:20-22

Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.

Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

John 11:23-27

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:23-27

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Why does Jesus ask this?

John 11:27

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord;
I have believed that You are the Christ,
the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”
Jesus drew her confession from her.

Jesus understood that confession
is faith building.

How did the delay grow their faith?

It gave them another opportunity to confess Christ's person.

It gave them another opportunity
to experience Christ's power.

John 11:38-40

So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb.

Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him,

"Lord, by this time there will be a stench,
for he has been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe,
you will see the glory of God?"

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Jesus said to her, **"Did I not say to you that if you believe,
you will see the glory of God?"**

John 11:41-44

So they removed the stone.

Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said,

“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”

When He had said these things,

He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”

The man who had died came forth.

John 11:41-44

So they removed the stone.

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When He had said these things,

He cried out with a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come forth.”

The man who had died came forth.

They experienced Christ's power to raise the dead when they saw Lazarus come forth and when they took hold of him in joyful elation.

We experience Christ's resurrection power now whenever we believe Him, obey Him, and joyfully take hold of Him.

How did the delay grow their faith?

It gave them another opportunity to confess Christ's person.

It gave them another opportunity to experience Christ's power.

It gave them another opportunity
to learn of Christ's purposes.

John 11:14-15

So Jesus then said to them plainly,
“Lazarus is dead, and **I am glad for your sake
that I was not there**, so that you may believe.”

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John 11:14-15

So Jesus then said to them plainly,
“Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes

that I was not there, **so that you may believe.**”

Christ’s delay was necessary for
the growth of their faith, and it was
necessary for them to know it!

Does it seem to you that the Lord
is delaying to come to your aid?

Like them, you need to learn that your
Lord does not delay without purpose.

He does *all things* with
good purpose!

John 11:41-44

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John 11:41-44

Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said,
“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.
I knew that You always hear Me;
but because of the people standing around I said it,

**so that they may believe that
You sent Me.”**

These things are written so that we too might learn that ***nothing*** happens over which Christ does not have control and for which He does not have a purpose!

Comfort will come by knowing
and believing this!

Receiving the Comfort of Christ

Why did Jesus allow Lazarus' sickness and death?

How did Jesus' delay work to grow their faith?

How do these things help us receive comfort in our sufferings?



How are we helped to find comfort?

We are taught to confess Christ.

We have often neglected to see
the value of confession in the
development of our faith.

We must learn to say as Martha did,
“Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ,
the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”

We must relearn the power of our
common confession of Christ.

1 Timothy 3:16

By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

*“He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.”*

How are we helped to find comfort?

We are taught to confess Christ.

We are taught to trust Christ.

John 11:27

Jesus said to her,

“Do you believe this?”

This was not a throwaway question:
it is *the* question upon which hinges
your reception of the comfort
Christ holds out to you!

Confession alone will not comfort you.

Comfort in suffering will only
come when you take hold of Christ--
believing Him and entrusting
yourself into His sovereign care!

How are we helped to find comfort?

We are taught to confess Christ.

We are taught to trust Christ.

We are taught to hope in Christ.

John 11:25-26

“I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
and everyone who lives and believes in Me
will never die.”

**Do you see the hope Christ
holds out to you here?**

You will not receive lasting comfort
in any of life's difficulties unless
you let go of your earthly, temporal
hopes and take hold of the *eternal*
hope Christ holds out to you!

Concluding Questions

Do you believe that all things are under Christ's sovereign control?

Do you believe that Christ is the infinitely wise and incomparably good Shepherd?

What is keeping you from taking hold of the comfort He holds out to you?