

JOHN 11-12

June 17, 2012

Today we are discussing **chapter 11 and 12** of the Gospel of John.

11:4 Look at **verse 4**. The *glory of God* is how the invisible God (**Colossians 1:15 & 1 Timothy 1:17**) reveals Himself in time and space. How can God be glorified by sickness?

- God may heal someone. He may use the sickness to build relationship (by drawing the person to and revealing Himself). He may glorify Himself by giving the believer the grace to be Christ-like in his suffering and death. See **11:14-15**. [14 So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”] NLT

11:6 In **verse 6**, Jesus waited instead of going immediately to help Lazarus. Why do you think He did this?

- He was waiting for Lazarus to die. God is more interested in timing than time. Jesus had a purpose in mind (resurrecting Lazarus) that people did not foresee. It is a greater miracle to raise someone from the dead than it is to heal someone.

What are we to think when it looks like God is doing nothing?

- He *is* doing something. We just don’t yet understand what God is doing.

11:9-10 The Son gives us light as the sun lights the world. What comparisons can you make between the two?

- With light we know where to go and can see where we are going. See **John 12:35-36**. [35 Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.” After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them. NLT

What spiritual principle do we learn in **verse 10**?

- We walk in the night because the *light* is not *in* us. See **Ephesians 5:8-13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8**. If the light is in us, then we will not walk in darkness. The life we live reveals our converted hearts.

11:16 In **verse 16**, Thomas was ready to die for Christ. Was he always ready to die for Jesus? What do we learn from Thomas?

1. Thomas later fled when Jesus was arrested (**Mark 14:50**) and he doubted that Jesus was risen (**John 20:24-25**).
2. Our relationship with God is not stagnant. We are always moving closer to or further from God. Each of us is capable of getting away from God if we don’t deliberately stay close to Him.

11:21,32 What do Martha and Mary's comments to Jesus in **verses 21 and 32** imply?

- They imply that the death of Lazarus was His fault.

What presumptions did they both make about Jesus?

- If He had been there, then He would not have allowed them to have this problem.

Does God's presence mean that we will not have problems and disappointments in this life?

- No. In **John 16:33** Jesus promised that life in this cursed world would be full of problems.

What has God promised?

- He has promised to be with us (**Hebrews 13:5**). He has promised that we can handle our problems if we trust Him (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). He has promised to give us strength (*grace* – **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**). He has promised to turn the bad to some good (**Deuteronomy 23:5 & Romans 8:28**). He has promised to use our problems to make us like Himself (**Romans 8:29**). He has promised to one day deliver us from this cursed world (**Revelation 21:3-4**).

11:25-26 What does Jesus mean in **verses 25 to 26**?

- If you are born once you will die twice (see **Hebrews 9:27** and **Revelation 20:6**). If you are born twice (*physically and spiritually* – **John 3:3**), you will only die once.

11:35 Why do you think that Jesus wept in **verse 35**?

- Possibilities: (1) Because He had compassion toward their pain. (2) Because they did not trust Him or believe He could resolve their problem.

11:38-43 Why did Jesus ask them to remove the stone in **verse 39**?

- God *almost always* asks us to do what we can do before He does what He can do. See **Revelation 3:20** (He gets what we have, then we get what He has.) and **Philippians 4:15-19** (God promised to provide for the Philippians because they had given to Him.).

11:44 What is the significance of the people having to “unbind” Lazarus in **verse 44**?

- We need the help of others to become who God wants us to be (free). Together (collectively) believers are saints; by ourselves...we ain't.

12:1-11 What lessons do we learn from Mary anointing the feet of Jesus in **chapter 12 verses 1 to 11**?

- True worship involves sacrifice (it *costs* us something). Extravagant sacrifice for God is right and appropriate. God is a much higher priority than people; even those God calls us to serve (see **12:5-8**).

12:24 What is Jesus saying in **verse 24**?

- He could not save us apart from dying in our place for our sins. We are the *fruit* of His death.

12:25 What is Jesus teaching in **verse 25**?

- We have to “die” to our life (the life we think we want) in order to have the life God intended for us. Holding onto the life we think we want robs us of the life we were made for. Dying to our own self-interests is the start of living for God’s purposes and having a lasting impact.

12:26 In **verse 26** Jesus claims that it really pays to serve the Lord. Is this true?

- Absolutely! See **Hebrews 11:6**; [6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.] **1 Corinthians 15:58**; [58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.] **Romans 8:18**; [18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.] **Luke 18:29-30**. [29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, 30 will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”] [NLT](#)

12:32 In **verse 32** Jesus makes reference to an Old Testament event. Does anyone recall that story?

- **John 3:14** and **Numbers 21:4-9** tell of the Bronze Serpent that Moses made. When the people looked to it and trusted in its power to heal their snakebites, it “saved” them.

What does the end of verse 32 teach us?

- All men have some “light”; God draws *all men* to Himself. Everyone has a chance to come to Christ.

12:37-40 Why were the people mentioned in **verses 37 to 40** unable to believe?

- They were unable to believe because they had been *unwilling* to believe and obey. See **John 7:17**. [17 Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own.] **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12** teaches that those who *would not* believe before the **Rapture of the church** will not be able to believe after the **Rapture**. If we “won’t”, then we eventually can’t.

12:43 Look at **verse 43**. How does people wanting man’s approval more than God’s approval manifest itself today?

- Some keep their faith private. Some participate in lifestyle choices so that they won’t “stick out” or get “left out”. Some displease God in order to please people. Some to impress people (image) rather than seeking to please God (integrity).

12:48 According to **verse 48**, how will we be judged?

- The Word of God will judge us. Have we obeyed the commands of Scripture? As Christians, we will not be judged concerning salvation, but we will be judged for our works. **See 2 Corinthians 5:10.** [10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged? We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. **NLT**