

The Glory of God Through Lazarus

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel

John's Gospel Study - John 11:1-16

Sunday – August 1st, 2010

CONTEXT: The Lord Jesus has ended His public teaching ministry to Israel (Chapter 10). The religious leaders have led the people in illogical and wicked rejection (John 10:42). Jesus has hidden Himself at Bethany in Perea (across the Jordan about 50 miles from Jerusalem). Jesus receives word that His friend Lazarus (from Bethany in Judea near Jerusalem – a different place called Bethany) is very ill. Instead of healing or seeking to immediately go to him, Jesus purposely remains at distance for an additional two days. He then discloses to His disciples that Lazarus is dead, and He will go to him to “awaken him from sleep.” This introductory scene is very important as a parallel to all Christians in life circumstances. Rarely do we know in difficult circumstances what God is doing. We are to trust the wisdom of God, wait on Him, and know that what appears His delays in life are not because His love is waning, but according to His sovereign purposes. His purposes are always for our good (Romans 8:28; John 11:15), and most importantly for His glory (John 11:4). There are powerful lessons in this section leading up to the resurrection of Lazarus for all who will listen.

Broad outline of the Gospel of John (underlined is the immediate context).

VII. The Performance of Christ followed by irrational rejection (6:1-12:50)

- I. The Confirmation of Messiah (9:1-41)
- J. The Contrast of Jesus with the Jewish leaders (10:1-21)
- K. The Credentials of Messiah largely rejected (10:22-42)
- L. The Christ who is able to impart life (11:1-46)

Key Words (11: 1-16)

- Lazarus (5)
- disciples (4)
- sick (4)
- asleep (2)
- death (2)
- light (2)

Introduction:

1. He sets His plan for glorification (11:1-16)

a. The situation is established (11:1-6)

- Sickness reported (11:1-3)
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- Singular purpose (11:4)
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- Sincere love (11:5)
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- Seemingly unreasonable delay (11:6)
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b. The special preparation of the disciples (11:7-16)

- Surprising leave (11:7-8)
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- Service to God is enabled (11:9-10)
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- Specific plan revealed (11:11-15)
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- Skeptical but continuing (11:16)
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Conclusion:
