

# Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 11:1-54](#)

“Authority to Raise the Dead” – August 29, 2021



## Introduction

Has your heart known the sickness of having hope deferred? What if God seems distant, cold, or unconcerned? Disappointment can lead us into anger and even depression. What are we supposed to do with soul crushing disappointment when our situation feels as hopeless as death? Well, thankfully, Jesus teaches us and gives us hope in His word. He shows us that when we are burdened beyond our strength, we can in fact rely on God who raises the dead.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- 1) Scene 1: The Delay ([11:1-15](#))
- 2) Scene 2: The Consolation ([11:16-37](#))
- 3) Scene 3: The Resurrection ([11:38-44](#))
- 4) Scene 4: The Rejection ([11:45-54](#))

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [11:1-15](#)

Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus but when he gets the bad news why doesn't He rush to help them? Jesus doesn't show up like they expected. Lazarus dies. Can you imagine their feelings and questions they must have had? Yet, this happened so that Jesus could show an even better reality of who He was. Jesus shows us how important and how good and dire the revealing of God is for us. It's everything! What does your view of God look like in the midst of pain and struggle? In his love Jesus takes their small view of Him and expands it. He's going to reveal the big God that he is. When you are dealing with deep grief or fear are you honest with God? We should be, but John 11 also provides strength in our bones knowing God's delays are delays of love and not indifference. We can trust Him.

- 2) Read [11:16-37](#)

Mary and Martha were in difficult times. Jesus' consolation is unique and personal as he comforts them. He cries with one and gives words of deep theological comfort to another. Jesus is not indifferent to us as unique as we are. He knows us by name. Are you going to Him in your needs? Do you trust the Savior's unique and personal care for you?

We can also learn how we should care for others by following Jesus' example. Some will need theological truth and others just someone to weep with in a moment. If you are suffering, have you told someone in your church family who can do this with you? If you are not in a place of suffering right now is there someone you can come along side as Jesus did here and weep with or encourage? Pray for wisdom to do this well.

Why do you come to God? We don't come to God to get what we want or what we need so that we can be independent of God. We come to God in our need to get God Himself. What does your prayer life look like? What are you asking for? Is God your ultimate treasure?

Do you ever feel like you read stories of God doing miraculous things but don't really expect him to work today? Jesus says he is currently the resurrection and the life. It's not that He was or will be, but He is. He is our ever-present help Church. Jesus was deeply moved by these circumstances of grief which means He was angry and outraged about them. He's angry at sin. He's angry at death. God's anger is the appropriate response to evil and injustice. One thing to not miss about the heart of Jesus though is that Jesus isn't just angry about sin and death, but he weeps with us in it. It grieves him. Even though he knows how the story ends and is sovereign he still enters into our emotions with us. God is sympathetic and ready to help you Christian.

*"God is more angry than you could ever be about the wrong done to you and in his anger, unlike yours, his anger has zero taint of sin in it, so let Jesus be angry on your behalf, his anger can be trusted, in that knowledge release your debtor and breathe again" - Dane Ortlund.*

### 3) Read [11:38-44](#)

Jesus pulls Martha out of her hopelessness by revealing who he is. The world is broken and cursed. By raising Lazarus from the dead though he's giving us a preview of what's to come. He's showing he is the redeemer who will come again and make all things new. Though we groan we do not live in fear. We live in hope and confidence about the future.

### 4) Read [11:45-54](#)

Are you afraid of death? If you are in Christ you will never taste God's righteous wrath towards sin. You will not experience the "second death". The Pharisees see Jesus as a threat to their life, but Jesus came to give life. What concerns you today that leaves you anxious or overwhelmed? Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Do we believe this church? How should that change the way we live today with one another and in front of the watching world?

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">John 12:1-36</a> <b>"Lose Your Life to Gain it"</b>
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