

Love, Waiting, and God's Will

Here we are with day 2 in John 11. We are going to learn from vv. 5-16.

Today we will be taught about God's love and how waiting is part of His will.

READ John 11:5-6

What We Need To Know When God Says Wait

Once again we have affirmation of Jesus' love for this family.

The Apostle John, writing this under the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit, wants us to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus loved them.

Why is that so vital?

Because the actions He takes at the beginning of this account don't seem very loving.

This is so good for us to know. Sometimes the actions God takes in our lives don't feel very loving.

What we are going to learn as we look at this passage is that we have to trust God even when we don't understand.

We trust what we know to be true. God is love (1 Jn. 4). He works all things for good (Rom. 8).

Jesus loves Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. So what does He do?

He waits two days.

What?! How can He claim to love them and then wait when He hears Lazarus is sick?

IMPORTANT: God's love is constant. Delayed action is part of His plan.

Sometimes it looks to us like God is doing nothing. That is due to the limits of our human perspective.

God is always at work. When He says wait, it is because He loves us and has a plan. When He says wait, it is because waiting is best for us.

REMEMBER: God waited three days to raise Jesus from the dead. All according to plan. All according to His great love.

READ John 11:7-10

When Waiting, God Will Affirm His Love

Now we see Jesus' love on display.

The last time He was in Judea they tried to stone Him.

Yet because of His love for this family, He will go there again.

IMPORTANT: When God says wait, it isn't because He doesn't love us.

REMEMBER: God proved His love when Jesus died on the Cross! We have no reason to question His love.

When something doesn't feel loving, it is because we don't yet understand what God is doing.

Jesus' Words in vv. 9-10 can be confusing. The bottom line is this...

When we follow God's plan and walk in His will, our next steps will be clear.

READ John 11:11-15

God Has A Purpose For Tragedy

There have been many times when my bride Jessica and I will look back on events in our lives and just scratch our heads.

We don't understand why God allowed us to endure certain things. We don't have an explanation for all the circumstances He has brought into our lives.

Passages like this one make me a little more comfortable with my lack of understanding.

Even those in daily contact with Jesus often misunderstood Him.

Repeatedly in the gospel's we have the disciples completely missing the point of Jesus' words.

Jesus has to get really blunt with His disciples.

UNDERSTAND: Sometimes difficult circumstances our God's way of speaking to us bluntly.

Verse 15 is where we learn that God has a plan here.

Jesus is very specific. He is not glad that Lazarus is dead. He is glad that the disciples are about to have their faith strengthened.

IMPORTANT: Jesus doesn't rejoice when we face tragedy. Jesus rejoices when we trust Him more.

I love that Jesus is going to Lazarus even though He is dead.

REMEMBER: In tragedy, difficulty, and suffering, Jesus moves toward us.

Don't run from Him. Don't turn away. He is the God of all comfort. Everything we need to endure the trials of life is found in Jesus Christ.

READ John 11:16

When Jesus Calls, Commit

Thomas gets a lot of criticism for doubting Jesus' resurrection.

What we see here is a man of faith and commitment.

Last time they were in Judea, Jesus almost got killed. In the mind of Thomas, going back will bring death.

So why does he go?

That's where Jesus called him to go.

Thomas is willing to die with Jesus if that's what God wills.

What is God calling us to do?

Will we commit to following Jesus no matter what?

REMEMBER: God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

If He is calling you, go.

IMPORTANT: Jesus doesn't call us to go where He has not already been.

The disciples are going with Jesus. When He calls us, it is to go with Him, to join Him in what He is doing.

TAKEAWAY

When God says wait, know He loves you and has a plan.

In that time of waiting, look for how He is affirming His love.

Know that even in tragedy, God has a plan and purpose.

When God calls you, commit.

God loves you.

He has a plan.

Commit to following Him.