

## John 11: The Resurrection and the Life

### Lesson Theme: Jesus' Obedience to the Father for the Bigger Picture

Romans 4:17b—

God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

#### John 11:1-44: But for the Glory of God

1. Lazarus, Mary and Martha—close, personal disciples and friends of Jesus. This is what makes this circumstance so heart-felt to Him (**John 11:1-3**).

Luke 10:38-42;

John 12:3—

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

2. Right away, Jesus recognized the Father's greater redemptive purpose in the temporary suffering (**John 11:4**). This is because Jesus understood the prophetic Scriptures about Himself.

Matthew 16:21—

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

3. Jesus obeyed the Father's will and waited for the perfect time (**John 11:5-7**).

Ecclesiastes 3:1—

To everything *there is a season,*  
A time for every purpose under heaven:

4. Jesus pointed out to His disciples that His ministry would continue until the appointed time of His death on the cross, even though the Jews were trying to stone Him. (**John 11:8-10**)

Example: The ministry of the Two Witnesses: Revelation 11:3-7

5. These are some of our first teachings on "death" for the believer according to the New Covenant. This is how God sees "death" for His own—it's only "sleep" (**John 11:11-14**).

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 for believers; compare Revelation 20:11-15 for unbelievers

6. The disciples were seeing they needed to lay down their lives to follow Jesus (**John 11:15-16**).

Luke 9:23-24—

Then He said to *them all*, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

7. Jesus taught Martha to have faith in the resurrection—"death" did not have a final say over any child of God (**John 11:17-27**).

Matthew 22:31-32—*But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."*

8. Mary's obedience to wait for Jesus to call her led the Jews to follow her to the tomb. This was God's exact set-up for what would happen next (**John 11:28-31**). See also **John 11:45**.
9. Jesus' close, personal relationship to Mary of Bethany led Him to experience deep, human emotion over this situation, perhaps the most emotion next to His prayer of surrender in the Garden of Gethsemane before the cross (see Luke 22:39-46). (**John 11:32-37**)

Hebrews 5:7-8—

who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

10. Jesus had complete confidence in His relationship to the Father and His power over death as the Son of God (**John 11:38-44**).

Jeremiah 32:27—

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”

#### **John 11:45-57: They Plotted to Put Him to Death**

11. Fear led the Jews to turn away from seeing God's work through Jesus. Tragically, exactly what they feared was going to come to pass anyway. (**John 11:45-48**)

Luke 21:20-24

12. God used the high priest Caiaphas to deliver a prophetic message of truth about the true Great High Priest. (**John 11:49-52**)

13. With Lazarus being raised from the dead, the Jewish leaders were forced to make a final decision about Jesus: They chose to put Him to death instead of receive them as their king. (**John 11:53**)

14. This led Jesus to have to go away from them until His final Passover of His earthly ministry (**John 11:54-57**)

#### Conclusions:

- Jesus, in His humanity, deeply loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. As fully God, He put aside His personal affections to follow the will of the Father, leading up to the greater plan of redemption for the world—His own death and resurrection for the sins of the world.
- God is in full control of all circumstances, always. Nothing happens arbitrarily—nothing is outside His sovereign control. Satan never, ever calls the shots (though he thinks he does, and we sometimes believe him). We can trust God's perfect will, even if we don't understand it at the time.
- Taking the opportunity to study the Scriptures prophetically gives us a deeper understanding of our personal suffering in light of God's plan for eternity. It gives us a deeper faith and peace that God causes everything to work together for good.

Romans 8:28—

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.