

CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE

John 11:1-6

Introduction:

1. Changing Our Perspective on God's Purpose (John 11:1-3)

A) Mary and Martha's Perspective (John 11:3)

- > Lazarus is very sick and Jesus is their only hope

- > From their perspective, Jesus needs to come quickly to heal their brother (John 11:21)

- > From their perspective, the greatest way to glorify Jesus would be that He prevents death

In actuality, the glory of Jesus will be seen in His ability to conquer death

B) Lazarus' Perspective

- > His name means "whom God helps"

- > A sickness that leads to death involves physical suffering – where is Jesus?

C) The Disciples' Perspective (John 11:7-8, 16)

- > These men are committed to Jesus the Christ / Messiah

- They have seen the signs and the response of the people to Jesus (John 6:15)

- > But if Jesus isn't careful, the Jewish leaders may kill Him and put an end to His mission

- They still don't understand that God's glory demands His death (John 17:1)

D) Changing our Perspective

- > How often do our requests to God mirror those of Mary and Martha?

- How did Jesus teach us to pray? (Matthew 6:9-13)

2. Changing Our Perspective on God's Timing

A) The clarity of Jesus' promise (John 11:4)

B) An apparent problem

> Lazarus dies

Death is normally considered “the end” ... But not in this story

Nor in the story of our lives (John 5:28-30)

C) The “human” perspective on Jesus’ timing

> Martha (John 11:21)

> Mary (John 11:32)

> The mourners (John 11:36-37)

3. Changing Our Perspective on God’s Glory (John 11:4b)

A) Jesus clearly revealed the purpose of this event

> The glory of God (John 11:4b)

> The glory of God’s Son (John 11:4b)

> The glory of God (John 11:40)

B) God is first and foremost committed to His glory

> To pursue anything less than His glory or other than His glory would be idolatry

> The story of Lazarus is significant because it reveals the glory of God

C. The glory of God and the love of God are closely connected

> Don’t miss Jesus’ love for His friends (John 11:3, 5, 11, 35-36)

> Don’t miss that the expression of His love and revelation of His glory will cost Him dearly (John 11:47-50)

* The highest good, and therefore the premise for all of our lives, is the glory of God

This may mean that we seek to glorify Him through good health, safety, and long lives OR that we seek to glorify Him through sickness, suffering, and even death

Our hope (Romans 8:18-25)