

“If You Had Been Here . . .”
When God Doesn’t Come Through As Expected
John 11

I. Tracking the Story: John 11

A. The Sisters’ Message and Jesus’ Response (1-6)

B. The Decision to Go to Bethany (7-16)

C. Jesus’ Interaction with Martha (17-28)

D. Jesus’ Interaction with Mary (29-37)

E. The Raising of Lazarus (38-44)

F. The Reaction of the People (45-46)

II. Relevant Observations

A. Jesus is fully capable of doing _____ to address any situation

- He is not deficient in _____.
- He is not deficient in _____.
- He is not deficient in _____.

He is, in fact, able not only to do anything we might want or ask him to do, he can do more than we could even _____ that he might do.

So, if he does not do something that we want him to do, it’s not because he lacks the _____.

- B. In any given situation, Jesus' action is not _____ by anything or anyone other than his Father (5:19; 8:28). He is never held hostage to anyone else's _____ (see John 2:1-11; 7:1-10). Just because he _____ doesn't mean that he _____.
- C. Jesus does not feel obligated to _____ his actions to his disciples. (Sometimes he gives explanations that will make sense later on – after something else has happened.) He is willing for his disciples to experience times of _____. As a matter of fact, as residents of a finite and fallen world, believers _____ have the whole picture in any given situation (1 Cor. 13:12)
- D. There are some things that are more important to God than _____ us pain and anguish. There may well be things that happen to us about which Jesus says, "For your sake I am glad that [thus and such happened] . . ." Two things that are more important are (1) the _____ of our faith (11:6, 42); and (2) the display of God's _____ (11:4, 40).
- E. Though God is willing for his children to experience (temporary) pain in the outworking of his purposes (2 Peter 5:10-11), he never just throws anyone _____. He Himself enters into the suffering of those he loves (Isaiah 43:2-5; 53:2-3; John 11:32-38; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 12:7-10; Hebrews 4:14-16).
- F. In any given situation, Jesus' action is governed by his larger _____, which have the goal of revealing God's glory (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 1:3-14). Ultimately, it will be seen that whatever magnifies God's glory is also " _____ " (John 11:4, 15).
- G. It may be that God makes his greatest demands on those who are _____ to him.
- H. Jesus' intention for his disciples is that, when we don't understand what he is doing, we trust in who he has _____ himself to be. Those who do this eventually and inevitably grow in their _____ of and _____ for who he is. Such reward is far greater than the _____.

III. Application: What to do while waiting for Jesus to show up.

- A. Anchor deep in what you _____:
- God is good.
 - Jesus cares.
 - He alone sees the whole picture.
 - He can be trusted to do the right thing at the right time.
- B. Remember your _____.
- C. Stay _____
- Through _____ – "Lord, he whom you love is ill."
 - Through honest _____ of confusion and feelings
- D. Do what you're _____ (Philippians 2:12-15).
- E. Pursue his _____ (Philippians 1:20-21).
- F. Remain _____ in hope.