

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Nineteen
Gospel of John
John 11: 1-57

“I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believe in me, though he may die, he shall live”

John 11:1-38

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity"
(Proverbs 17:17). Jesus loved Lazarus and his two sisters as dear friends and he often stayed in their home at Bethany. Why did Jesus delay in coming to Lazarus' side when he knew that his friend was gravely ill?

Sickness can befall us for a variety of reasons. Jesus attributed Lazarus' sickness to the glory of God. The glory which Jesus had in mind, however, was connected with the cross. He saw the cross as his supreme glory and the way to glory in the kingdom of God. For Jesus there was no other way to glory except through the cross.

Jesus knew that if he went to help Lazarus he would expose himself to grave danger from those in Jerusalem who were plotting his destruction. Jesus was willing to pay the price to help his friend.

Are you ready to give help when it costs dearly?

"Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God!"

John 11:38-45

Jesus' two day delay must have puzzled his disciples. But they were clearly startled and upset when Jesus did announce that he was going to Bethany, which is very close to Jerusalem. This looked like suicide since they knew the religious authorities were out to get rid of Jesus. For Jesus to come to Jerusalem at Passover time was an act of courage.

The explanation which Jesus gave to his disciples was simple and challenging at the same time. *"Are there not twelve hours in the day?"* In so many words he said: "There are enough hours in the day to do what one must do." A day can neither be rushed nor extended. Its period is fixed. In God's economy we each have our "day" whether it be short or long. While time is limited, there is enough for us to accomplish what God intends.

God gives each of us our allotted portion in life. We can either waste it or use it to the utmost for God's glory. Jesus did not let circumstances or pressure dictate what he would do. Nor did he permit others to dictate his actions or timetable. He took action of his own initiative and in his good time.

Don't we often try to get God to do things in our way and on our timetable?

They took counsel how to put Jesus to death

John 11:45-57

Do you allow fear or opposition to hold you back from doing God's will? Jesus set his face like flint toward Jerusalem, knowing full well what awaited him there (Luke 9:51; Isaiah 50:7). It was Jewish belief that when the high priest asked for God's counsel for the nation, God spoke through him.

What dramatic irony that Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus must die for the nation. The prophet Ezekiel announced that God would establish one people, one land, one prince, and one sanctuary forever (Ezek. 37:26-28). Luke adds to Caiaphas's prophecy that Jesus would gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

Jesus came to lay down his life for the many, but not in a foolish reckless manner so as to throw it away before his work was done. He retired until the time had come when nothing would stop his coming to Jerusalem to fulfill his Father's mission.