



# Calvary of Albuquerque

The Great Physician's Patient Dies - John 11:1-16

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

When a doctor loses a patient on the operating table, there is a deep sense of remorse and sadness in the surgical theater. Doctors are trained to save lives but sometimes even the best trained physicians are unable to control complications that lead to death. But here we discover that Christ, the Great Physician, not only knows that His patient is sick--He allows him to die! Here are three principles about Divine Medicine that we can all learn.

## OUTLINE

- I. Jesus' Friends Get Sick (vv. 1-4)
- II. Jesus' Foresight Gets Seen (vv. 5-7)
- III. Jesus' Followers Get Schooled (vv. 8-16)
  - A. The Disciples' Hesitation
  - B. Thomas' Declaration



## Questions for Other Patients:

1. Where were you when you first heard the news of the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 or the assassination of John Lennon in 1980 or JFK in 1963? What was your immediate response when you heard the news?
2. What was Jesus' relationship with Lazarus' family? What would you expect Him to do when He heard that Lazarus was sick? Why do you expect that?
3. How will Lazarus' death help the disciples? Do you think helping the disciples is worth his death? Why or why not?

## DETAILED NOTES

There are few people you trust more than your doctor. You trust doctors will make a correct physical assessment of your health and know what to do. Jesus portrays Himself as a physician. In Mark 2: 17 He says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." In fact, Jesus is the Great Physician, the Master Physician.

In Luke 5:12-15, He acted as dermatologist when He cured a man of leprosy.

In Luke 13:10-13, He acted as orthopedist when He cured the crippled woman.

In Mark 5:25-34, He acted as hematologist when He healed the woman with an issue of blood.

In John 4: 46-54, He acted as pediatrician when He healed the nobleman's son.

In Matthew 8:5-13, He acted as neurologist when He healed a man with palsy.

In John 9, he acted as ophthalmologist when he healed a blind man.

In John 11, he acted as post-mortem resuscitative specialist, when he resurrected Lazarus.

Jesus, who has all power and all ability, let his friend Lazarus die.

John 11 marks the transition from Jesus' public to His private ministry. The nation has rejected Him and for the few months before His crucifixion He concentrates on private ministry, secluded within His disciples. John 10 takes place in the winter, during the Feast of Dedication and John 12 takes place in the spring at the Passover, John 11 is sometime between the two. We are at about the midpoint of the Gospel of John; the first half of the book focuses on the first thirty-three years of His life; the second half will focus on the last 48-hours, because the most important event is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

- I. Jesus' Friends Get Sick (vv. 1-4)
  - A. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha are among Jesus close friends
    1. Lazarus is the Hebrew short-form of Eleazar
    2. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus
    3. Lived in Bethany, 1.5 miles from Jerusalem, on the other side of the Mount of Olives
  - B. Lazarus is sick - a disease of deterioration leading to death
  - C. They make an appeal based on Jesus' love for them

1. Simple appeal without instruction (they don't tell Jesus how to fix it)
  2. No manipulation
  3. No bribery
  4. φιλεῖς - phileo - brotherly love, friendship love (Your close pal, the one You love like a brother, is sick)
- D. Surprise that one Jesus loves so much could be so sick
1. Behold - Wow! Look!
  2. If You love me, why would you allow it?
- E. We shouldn't be surprised
1. Man is still man
    - a. Since the Fall of Man there has been a constant entropy
    - b. "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).
    - c. "Everyone dies of his last disease." --Dr. Walter Martin
    - d. "Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).
    - e. "The love of Jesus does not separate us from the common necessities and infirmities of human life. Men of God are still men. The covenant of grace is not a charter of exemption from disease." --C.H. Spurgeon
  2. God uses sickness for our benefit
    - a. Deeper intimacy with Christ
    - b. Greater understanding of His Word
    - c. "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes" (Psalm 119:71).
  3. God uses sickness for the good of others
    - a. Bolsters their faith
    - b. Suffering believers are one way God lets the world know he is real
- F. Sickness, even death, may be God's will for His people.
- II. Jesus' Foresight Gets Seen (vv. 5-7)
- A. Jesus knows when Lazarus is dead
  - B. Jesus has everything in perfect control
  - C. Jesus didn't rush to Lazarus' side, He waits.
  - D. Jesus loved them - ἀγαπά - agapaó - divine, complete love
  - E. So he stayed - His delay was directly connected to His love for them
    1. God's delays are not God's denials
    2. Delays do not prove that He is not on time; they prove that we are not on time
    3. We don't know the big picture
    4. They want a resuscitation; Jesus wants a resurrection
    5. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts"(Isaiah 55:8-9).
    6. God knows the end from the beginning
  - F. What good comes from delays?
    1. Mold our errant wills to conform to His perfect will (i.e., Egypt to Canaan an eleven-day journey, took forty years)
    2. Build faith (i.e., Abraham's promised son)
  - G. We must learn to interpret circumstances by the love of Christ, rather than interpreting the love of Christ through our circumstances, or we will never understand our circumstances and we will always doubt God's love.
- III. Jesus' Followers Get Schooled (vv. 8-16)
- A. The Disciples' Hesitation
    1. The physical threat. (In John 10, the people took up stones to kill Jesus)
    2. Jesus didn't have to physically go in order to heal. (i.e., John 4:46-54, the nobleman's son)
    3. 12 hours day
      - a. Jewish example of daylight hours, people worked
      - b. Sunlight represents Jesus' earthly ministry as prescribed by the Father
      - c. Night is the end of Jesus' Ministry.
      - d. You are invincible until God is done with you.
    4. Lazarus sleeps; Lazarus is dead
      - a. Sleep a euphemism for death
      - b. Not soul sleep - "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).
      - c. Sleep is temporary; resurrection is like waking up
    5. I am glad (glad for the death of the one He loves)
      - a. Lazarus is a believer - "Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).
      - b. Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead
        1. Jesus knew the disciples' faith would grow
  - B. Thomas' Declaration
    1. Doubting Thomas
    2. Not words of doubt, but words of love, faithfulness, courage, and loyalty; Thomas is willing to die for Christ
    3. Thomas is honest (See John 14 in the upper room)
    4. "If God had answered every prayer of mine, I would have married the wrong man seven times." --Ruth Graham
    5. God always answers prayers
      - a. Sometimes the answer is no
      - b. Sometimes the answer is wait

Figures Referenced: Dr. Walter Martin; C.H. Spurgeon; Ruth Graham

Cross References: Job 5:7; Psalm 116:15; Psalm 119:71; Isaiah 55:8-9; Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 5:45; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 5:12-15; Luke 13:10-13; John 4:46-54; John 9; John 14; 2 Corinthians 5:8

Greek Terms: φιλεῖς - phileo - brotherly love, friendship love; ἀγάπα - agapaó - divine, complete love

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