

Grief and Glory

Pastor John McIntosh

John 11:1-46

- There are **THREE** main drivers in John 11
- We have been created to bring **GLORY** to God
- How do we **EXPRESS** glory to God?
- In John 11, we see God's glory, revealed through five observations of the Son's **GREATNESS**, **POWER**, and **AUTHORITY** over the grief:

1. The glory of God in **GRIEF** (v. 14)
2. The glory of God in **TIME** (v. 5-7; 17-21)
3. The glory of God in **FAITH** (v. 11:7-16)
4. The glory of God in **FOCUS** (v. 23-27; 32-35)
5. The glory of God in **LIFE** (v. 38-44)

Conclusion: The resurrection produced...

- a. **BELIEF** (v. 45)
- b. **BETRAYAL** (v. 46)

Auburn Grace Community Church – September 19th, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 19, 2021

John 11:3-4 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

DISCOVER (Read John 11:1-46)

1. We all experience pain amidst life storms. What is the most painful or difficult thing you have ever experienced? Did you question God's love for you during that time? Why or why not?
2. What does Jesus tell Martha about Himself in vv. 25-26? Why is this a significant statement about who Jesus is?
3. How many times did Jesus allude to the fact that He would raise Lazarus before the miracle took place? How did His listeners respond?

EXPLORE

1. Is there sometimes/always a higher purpose or bigger picture to the pain and suffering we experience? How can we know this? What do you think God's servant, Job, would say about your suffering?
2. Read Romans 8:28 and paraphrase it. How can we effectively use this verse with those who are suffering without belittling the depth of their pain? How can we relate this to those outside the faith?
3. Read Jeremiah 1:5. You existed in the mind of God before you existed in your mother's womb. How should this knowledge drive the believer's life? How might our priorities be different than a non-believer's? How can Christians help to bridge this gap?

EXPERIENCE

1. In the Lazarus account, it's clear that Jesus allows those He loves to experience grief to achieve the higher purpose of building faith and glorifying God. With this in mind, how does giving your difficult circumstances to Jesus change? When have you been reluctant to allow Him to bear your burdens? (see Matthew 11:28-30)
2. Rethinking how you typically view and deal with your problems, identify ways you can use them to demonstrate the power of God in your life. Similarly, how can your shortcomings or weaknesses bring glory to God?
3. Pastor John taught us what grief is and that it is not an end in itself. There's more...that God uses grief/death to prepare us for heaven. Why is comforting those who grieve our God-given assignment to point them to Jesus? Why are the grieving more susceptible to Holy Spirit?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Father in heaven, I know that praying that Your Name would be glorified through my life might be costly for me. I receive that and ask that You would help me to completely participate in Your perfect and pleasing will for me. Help me to live out my life "Soli Deo Gloria." ("Solely for God's glory.")

Action... Take a stand for Jesus this week. Encourage at least one person to know that God is in the life changing business.