

# When God Cries



*John 11:1-46*

English Standard Version

*<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."*

*John 11:1-3*

# When God Cries


- The love Jesus has for this family is referred to repeatedly; John wants us to connect with that intimacy
- The request comes from Christ's loved ones
- The appeal is made to Christ's love
- Verse 4: This text is about the glory of Christ; we'll ask, "How?"



*<sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it he said, “ This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.*

*John 11:4-6*

# When God Cries

- How do we match up our understanding of love with this?
  - Jesus is choosing to stay *because* He loved them!
  - Insights into God's love:
    - It doesn't seek to coddle us
    - Teaches us that love isn't incompatible with suffering
    - Its goal is to mature/complete us
    - It gives us what we need most, not what we want
    - When have you said, "That's not love"?
- 



*<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.*

*John 11:7-9*

# When God Cries

- How often would we rather avoid pain, and/or pursue blessing instead of intimacy?
- Where are you making decisions from speculation?





*<sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died,*



*<sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> So*

*Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.*

*John 11:11-17*

# When God Cries

- Jesus lets Lazarus die (and all that implies) for Christ's glory
- On Christ's timetable
- With goals oriented to a different place






*20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

*<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me) shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

*John 11:20-27*




# When God Cries

- Faith and doubt both in verse 21
  - There's a hint of suspicion of Christ's love
  - Doubt & faith
  - "I am the resurrection"
  - I am exactly what Lazarus needs and what you need
  - We seek plans and answers; God gives us the person of Jesus
  - Verses 6, 17, 24 - God often waits, doesn't He?
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*<sup>18</sup>Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to  
you.*

*For the LORD is a God of justice;  
blessed are all those who wait for him.*

*Isaiah 30:18*





*14 Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!*

*Psalm 27:14*



# When God Cries

- Where are you doubting, not even considering that God could do something?
- Don't judge before the resurrection





*<sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"*

*John 11:32-36*

# When God Cries

- Therefore ~ Because of their tears and her question, He is troubled; why?
- Troubled = Angry/disturbed
- He's greatly disturbed at their lack of faith/disbelief
- That His love is questioned
- How does God respond when we doubt and question Him?
- God cried





*38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.*

*42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

*John 11:38-44*




*45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.*

*John 11:45-46*



# When God Cries

- Belief 6 times
  - Suffering often produces stronger disciples
  - We would naturally choose healing over intimacy, blessings over loving God more fully
  - Belief is not about knowledge; its about a willingness to believe
- 
- A small green leaf is shown floating on a blue surface, creating concentric ripples that spread outwards. The background of the entire slide is a light blue gradient.



# When God Cries

- God's love is real and deeper than you can imagine
- God's delay doesn't mean He doesn't love you



# When God Cries

LAZARUS





# When God Cries

- Hears his Shepherd's voice from beyond the grave
- His only hope; no one else came who could help; Lazarus couldn't get out if he wanted to; he was *REALLY* dead
- Couldn't heal himself couldn't respond until he was called



# When God Cries

- Will you see Christ?
- Weeping
- Will you hear His voice?
- I am the resurrection and the life - seek Me!
- Will you hear His voice?
- Come forth!





A still life photograph of Thanksgiving food. In the foreground, there are two ears of corn, one yellow and one purple. Behind them is a ham wrapped in a purple cloth. In the background, a turkey is visible. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background.

**THIS Wed, Nov 23**

**@ 10 AM**

**Pick up your hams &  
deliver your meals to your  
adopted families!**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

# Women's Ministry

## Upcoming Events



Ladies Bible Study ~ 7 PM ~ Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at the  
home of Cammy Prine / December 5<sup>th</sup> the home  
of Nicole Page

Progressive Dinner – 12/6 6:30–9:30  
Details in your bulletin





# McAllen Mission Trip

Your second \$50  
deposit due TODAY!

Food & clothing  
donations are being  
collected...

# Prayer Team

We are looking for  
prayer warriors...  
Join our team to  
pray for the service  
or sign up online to  
pray for prayer  
requests...

Details in your  
bulletin

