

Digging Deeper : John 11:1-44

Written by Rob Reynolds (Elder at MACC)

Day 1

Read through and pray over John 11:1-44.

Read John 11:1-6. Lazarus is gravely sick. Mary and Martha knew Jesus could heal him. They sent word to Jesus in hopes he would come to them. In verse 5 we learn that Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, yet in the next verse we learn that Jesus decides to stay where he was for two days. In fact, staying for two days was a result of his love. Why does God's response seem delayed to us at times? What does it look like to trust God while we wait for answered prayers?

Day 2

Read John 11:7-16. Jesus tells his disciples that it is time for US to go back to Judea. The disciples respond in fear reminding Jesus that the Jews wanted to stone him. They ask Jesus are YOU going there again? They didn't ask if WE are going back, rather are YOU. It sounds as if they were momentarily not willing to follow Jesus. Read verse 9 again to hear how Jesus responded. Why is Jesus talking about walking around in the day versus walking around at night. What are the advantages of walking in the light of day rather than night? Read John 8:12. In whom do we find light? Take time to consider if fear has diverted your path causing you to stumble in darkness. What steps do you need to take to get back on His lighted path.

Day 3

Read John 11:17-22. Lazarus has died and been in the tomb for four days. Martha in her sadness vents to Jesus "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died." Although her hope and expectations were somewhat dismayed, she utters verse 22, "But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Even in our worst circumstances and when we can't see a way, we must believe that God is able. Read Mark 9:24, and pray for your unbelief.

Day 4

Read John 11:23-27. Meditate and pray over verses 25-26. Ask yourself the question Jesus poses in verse 26, "Do you believe this?" Read Psalm 16:9-10, and consider how we should respond knowing Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Pray that your daily walk would reflect the security you have in Jesus.

Day 5

Read John 11:28-37. Upon seeing Mary and the Jews crying, verse 33 tells us Jesus was "deeply moved in spirit" or "groaned in the spirit." And then Jesus wept. WOW! Even knowing what he was getting ready to do (raise Lazarus from the dead), Jesus was moved to tears. Read Psalm 40:1-2. How does it make you feel to know that our Savior Jesus Christ is deeply moved in spirit by our tears and sorrow?

Day 6

Read John 11:38–44. Jesus repeated a central theme throughout this entire text study. Go back and read verses 4, 15, and 41–42. What is the purpose Jesus states for this illness? What reason does Jesus give as to why he was not there when Lazarus died? Why did Jesus publicly thank God for hearing him? Jesus sees the big picture. Jesus had a purpose and plan. Read and memorize Jeremiah 29:11. Consider what illnesses you might be suffering with (physical, mental, stress, poverty...) that God has a spiritual purpose for. Remember that God's plan is perfect and does not lead to death but life!