

## John 11:3-6

*Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.*

Do you know that Jesus loves you?

"Yes I do Steve."

Great, so if you know that Jesus loves you, how do you know that He does apart from Him dying for your sins? Now before you answer that, re-read today's devotional verses again, and tell me how Jesus showed His love for Lazarus.

It's not a trick question, but let me give a quick highlight of what's going on here. As you may know the story, Lazarus got sick, so messengers were sent to Jesus to let Him know about it. Now it's very clear in scripture that Jesus loved Lazarus: *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.* People also knew that Jesus loved Lazarus, because when Jesus finally went to where Lazarus was in the tomb it says: *Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" John 11:35-36*

So, if you think about it, how did Jesus show everyone that He loved Lazarus?

Well, reading this story, when Jesus found out that Lazarus was sick, *He stayed two more days in the place where He was.* Not only that, He allowed Lazarus to die.

† **John 11:14** *Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."*

Now, with all that in mind, let me ask you the same question again. How do you know that Jesus loves you, apart from Him dying for your sins?

Do you base His love for you according to how He answers your prayers, or how quickly? Think about it for a minute, when you pray you are talking to Jesus. So messengers were sent to Jesus and told Him (kind of like praying in person) that Lazarus was sick. What was His response? He waited 2 days before He even started to head to where Lazarus was, and the result was that Lazarus died.

So if Jesus loved Lazarus so much, why didn't He drop everything and run to where Lazarus was and lay hands on him so that He would be healed, or He could have just said the word and Lazarus would had been healed?

Or let's get a little more personal, why doesn't Jesus drop everything He is doing when you pray to him about something that is pressing, like a sick friend, or you are sick or in need? Your finances are zero and you have bills and rent to pay. But it seems Jesus is being casual and

uncaring and just kind of hanging out with God and will get to you later? I mean, come on, what kind of a God wouldn't drop everything to run and help those that He loves? A loving God!

Jesus explains why He waited after He told them that Lazarus was dead.

† **John 11:14-15** *Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."*

Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead, and sure, He could have prayed where He was and healed Lazarus, but how many would have believed in Jesus if He did? Think about that, Lazarus was lying in bed, sick. Then all of a sudden he gets better and Jesus wasn't around to heal him. Who would believe Jesus healed him four days before He arrived. They would have just said that it was normal for someone to be sick and get better. But God was glorified and many believed because Jesus waited and didn't rush in like Mary and Martha wanted Him to do.

† **John 11:45** *Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.*

We don't always understand why God makes us wait or doesn't answer our prayers how we want Him to, or when we want Him to. But just know that the answer is *for your sakes, that you may believe.*