

# John 11:1-6. Christ Receives a Message From Martha and Mary

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*Christ's dealings with his saints, including his delay in responding to their distress, are for the glory of God and to display his power and redemption.*

**Scripture:** John 11:5-40, 1 Corinthians 15:51

**Topics:** "Divine Providence", "Gods Glory"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer delves into the profound story of Jesus' interactions with the beloved family at Bethany, showcasing how His dealings with His saints on earth reflect His love and faithfulness. Through the examples of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, we see the strength of those who deeply trust in the Lord, even in the face of trials. The delay in healing Lazarus compared to other miracles reveals a deeper purpose for God's glory, emphasizing the importance of trusting in His timing and wisdom in our own lives. The story of Lazarus' sickness and death illustrates how God's glory is often manifested through redemption from evil, showcasing His power and love in the midst of suffering and loss.

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## Transcript

The conduct of our blessed Redeemer towards the beloved family at Bethany, sheds light upon his dealings with his saints now upon earth. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, were firmly attached to their Lord, and they could stand trials that weaker saints could not have endured.

The Lord did not delay to heal the nobleman's son, nor Jairus' daughter, but he delayed to speak the word on behalf of Mary's brother. What was the reason for this difference? Mary and her sister knew their Lord well; they had experienced his faithfulness in times past; they could trust his love, even in the midst of apparent neglect.

When Lazarus was taken ill, his sisters deeply regretted the absence of their Lord, but they knew where he was, and they sent a messenger to acquaint him with their grief. The words of the message were few and touching, "Behold he whom you love is sick." The sisters did not request that Jesus would come; they laid their case before him, and left it to his never-failing love to act as he saw fit. Here is an example for our prayers. It is a comfort in distress to spread our wants and woes before the Lord; but it is best to leave it to his wisdom to decide how to relieve us.

The answer Jesus gave to the message was very encouraging. "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Yet it seems probable that Lazarus died before the message could be delivered to the weeping sisters. It must have come too late to give them comfort.

But the dying chamber, the funeral scene, the days of mourning, were all appointed "for the glory of God." We naturally imagine that God is most glorified by preventing evil; but we know from his own declarations that he is more glorified by redeeming from evil. The fall of angels and of man will in the end bring more glory to God than would have arisen had these evils been prevented; for then the wonders of redemption could never have been displayed. It is a delight to the righteous to promote the glory of their heavenly Father. They would willingly endure sufferings for this purpose. We heard a little while ago of a man who was born blind, that the works of God might be made manifest in him--we now hear of one who died for the same end. Believers even now die, not as a punishment for sin, but in order to promote the glory of God. Christ has suffered for their sins, and borne all their punishment, but he appoints that they should die, that at the last day he may raise them all for his own glory. When he shall say, "Come up here," then great fear will fall on those who behold them ascending in a cloud to meet their Lord in the air.

Theirs will be a more glorious resurrection than that of Lazarus, for he rose to die again; but those who are made alive at the last day will die no more.

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