

John 11:1-16

7/14/19 AM

**THE DEATH OF LAZARUS**

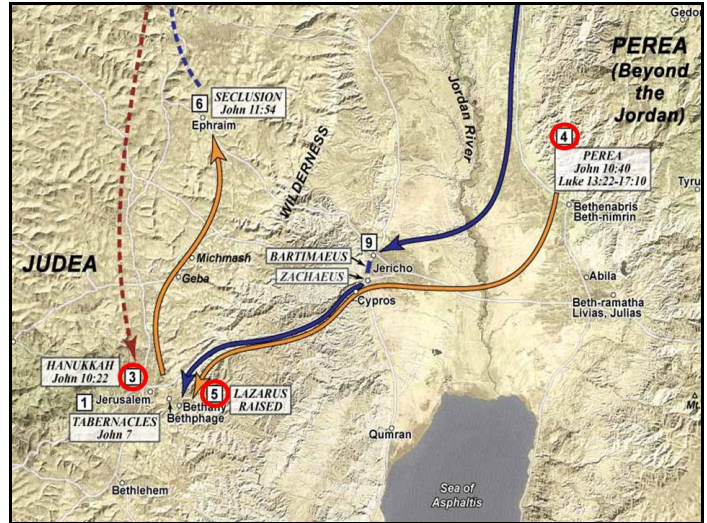
**Introduction:**

**I. A SPECIAL FAMILY (11:1-16)**

**A. The Background (vs. 1-2)**

“now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany”

“Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha”



“it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair”

“whose brother Lazarus was sick”

**B. The Beckoning (vs. 3-5)**

“so the sisters sent word to Him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.’ ”

“but when Jesus heard this”

“This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”

“now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus”

**C. The Non-Balk (vs. 6)**

“so when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer”

“in the place where He was”

**II. A SIGNIFICANT FOCUS (11:7-11)**

**A. His Commitment (vs. 7)**

Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

B. Their Concern (vs. 8)

“the disciples said to Him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?’ ”

C. His Clarification (vs. 9-11)

“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.”

“But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

“after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep’”

“but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep”

**III. THE SPIRITLESS FOLLOWERS (11:12-16)**

A. Slow to Understand (vs. 12-14)

“Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

“now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep”

“so Jesus then said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead...’ ”

B. Slow to Believe (vs. 15)

“I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe”

“but let us go to him”

C. Slow to Follow (vs. 16)

“therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus”

“said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go...’ ”

“ ‘so that we may die with Him’ ”

**Conclusion:**

- 1) Sometimes the Lord allows those He loves to suffer.
- 2) We cannot always know the “why” of our suffering.
- 3) Always interpret your suffering by God’s love, not His love by your suffering.

**Food for Thought:**

- 1) What purpose(s) might God have for allowing sickness or suffering?
- 2) Why did Jesus delay in going up to Bethany?
- 3) Why is it futile (and sometimes defiant) to ask “why” when we suffer?
- 4) How should we understand Thomas’ statement (vs. 16) and the disciples’ response?