

(1) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, He whom You love is ill.”

(4) 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.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

(8) The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are you going there again?” 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. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

(11) After saying these things, He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” The disciples said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He meant taking rest with sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

(16) So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Chapter 10 (vs.39-40) ended with Jesus leaving Jerusalem headed to the other side of the Jordan River (‘Bethany beyond the Jordan’, or Bethabara) where John had once been baptizing. Look at a map to see how far away He is now from Jerusalem. How close is Bethany to Jerusalem?

Jerusalem to ‘Bethany beyond the Jordan’? _____

Bethany (Lazarus’ home) to Jerusalem? _____

- 2) Here we get a glimpse into what is best understood as a friendship Jesus had with one particular family. The first introduction to the family is found in Luke 10:38-42, and it doesn’t refer to Lazarus at all. What do you learn about Mary and Martha from this Luke passage? What does John tell us about Mary in John 11:2?

Martha? _____

Mary? _____

- 3) What action did Jesus take when messengers arrived to let Him know Lazarus was very sick? What explanation does He give in vs. 4 & 15 as to acting this way?

- 4) In v.7, Jesus says it's time to return to Judea, to Bethany, where Lazarus lives. His disciples immediately remind Him that this is a dangerous choice (v.8). How do you understand Jesus' answer to them that there "are 12 hours in the day" (consider John 9:4-5 and Ephesians 5:15-16)? Were the disciples willing to face danger with Him (see v.16)?

Jesus' answer infers? _____

Were His disciples willing to face danger with Him? _____

- 5) Let's delve a little more into Jesus' answer to His disciples. A common biblical theme is that God's children (believers) "walk in the light," in the day, and that those outside of God's life walk in darkness, in the night. Take a look at 1 John 1:5-2:11. How might you apply this to your life, and to raising your family?

- 6) In vs.11-15, what term does Jesus use to reflect His view of death? Is this a common Biblical perception (see 2 Samuel 7:12; Job 14:10-12; Matthew 9:18, 23-26; Acts 7:60-8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:6)? How does this fit into Christ's return (2nd Coming, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)?

Jesus' term? _____ Common Biblical perception? _____
2nd Coming? _____

People and situations I want to pray for this week: