

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

We have been in a series on the miracles of Jesus, told by John. We have seen that they point to Jesus and serve to clarify who He is. The final “sign” or miracle is found in John 11. Do you have a favorite sign? Did one of these signs grab your attention or cause you to think about it for a while?

1. Turning water to wine: God is for us
  2. Healing the official's son: God is with us
  3. Healing the man paralyzed for 38 years: God is in our desperation
  4. Feeding the 5,000: God provides for us
  5. Walking on water: God is over everything
  6. Giving sight to the blind man: God owns our pasts
- Is Jesus God? If the first six signs don't answer that question, the seventh one certainly does. Again

## **Lazarus gets sick and dies (v. 1-16)**

There are two reasons Lazarus got sick and was allowed to die. In verse 4, what does Jesus say as one of the reasons?

- How do we give God glory? According to Thomas Watson, an English Puritan preacher of the 1600s, the way we give God glory is through... Appreciation, Adoration, Affection and Submission.
- Take a moment and define these terms and then jot down an idea or two so that you give God glory right now!

The second reason is given in John 11:14.

- What is that reason?
- How does that match what John says in John 20:30-31?

## **Jesus comforts Lazarus' sisters (v. 17-32)**

- What do we learn about Martha's faith? (v. 22-24)
- Who does she believe Jesus is? (v. 25-27)

- Both Martha and Mary make the “if only” statements. Compare verse 21 and verse 32.
- What do they mean by those statements?
- Do you see a connection between “if only you had been here” and God didn’t care enough to... fill in the blank in your own experience? They believed Jesus could have prevented the death. In our own lives we hope Jesus will prevent many things. Where is one place you wish and pray Jesus would show up for you today?

### **How Jesus really feels about death (v. 28-36)**

Jesus sympathizes and cares – John 11:35, “Jesus wept.” No matter what you are going through – Jesus cares. Just because he has the power to fix anything, he still knows, feels and is with you. He loves you.

### **The thing: Jesus is God (v. 37-44)**

According to verse 37, nearly everyone is pretty sure Jesus could have healed Lazarus while he was alive.

- What is happening in verses 38-44?  
Martha believes Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying (v. 21). She knows that he could raise him from the dead by praying to God (v. 22). Now she is concerned about the smell of death (v. 39).
- What does Jesus say in verse 40?

Perhaps this description of glory will help you:

“The most common use of the word “glory” in the Bible is to describe **the splendor, holiness and majesty of God**. Glory, in this sense, is often associated with a person experiencing God’s presence in a tangible way. When used this way, the word glory conveys a sense of heavy dignity.”  
<https://classroom.synonym.com/meaning-glory-bible-6654.html>

- Have you seen the glory of God? When? How? Where?

Note the brief prayer Jesus has with his Father in v. 41-42. God hears Jesus’ prayers and our as well.

Read verses 43-44. “And the dead man came out...” Is Jesus God?

The speaker offered these profound thoughts about answering the most important question we face in our lives.

- Into which of these three groups do you find yourself?

Group 1: People, like Martha, who say YES: I believe You are the Messiah.

Group 2: People who say NO: See John 12:37 People who saw the same signs said no!

Group 3: People who say YES, with a BUT I am afraid of what others think. **John 12:42-43** says, "Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God."

- Into which group do you fall?
- How can we help others move from group 3 or 2 to group 1?

