**Message:** *“God You Seem Late…Why?”*

*John 11*

**Main Thought:**

**A WAITING SEASON IS NOT A WASTED SEASON**

Talking About Those Times When God Doesn’t Make Sense!

Specifically Today…

When God Seems Late.

**KINDA WHAT OUR CULTURE IS KNOWN FOR!**

Hate Waiting.

Waiting Traffic.

Waiting Airports.

We Want It Now…

Then We Want It Faster…

Then Faster Yet

You’re praying—Believing—Waiting!

Why doesn’t God do something about ***it***?

$ Challenges, Heath, Relational, Work Stuff

**HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD WHY HE ISN’T TAKING ACTION?**

- Waiting to get married.

- Waiting to conceive.

- Waiting on a prodigal.

- Waiting job.

- Waiting for healing.

- Waiting for someone you care about to say yes to Jesus.

**"God, Why Don't You Do Something About IT?"**

All Of Us, At One Time Or Another…

At Different Seasons Of Our Lives,

Will Face Those Waiting Seasons Of Life…

Where We Know God Could Do Something About This.

We've Seen Him Do It In Other People's Lives,

We Have Faith For It,

And Yet God Doesn't Do What We Think He Should Do

When We Want Him To Do It!

**As A Result We End Up Waiting, Waiting.**

**It's Really Hard And Can Even Be Painful.**

**Our Main Thought For Today Is This.**

**A WAITING SEASON IS NOT A WASTED SEASON.**

I Want To Take A Look A New Testament Story Today...

It’s Actually A Story From Jesus’ Life…

A Story About These Two Sisters…

Mary, Martha, and Their Brother Lazarus.

***If You Didn't Grow Up Around Church,***

***You Wouldn't Necessarily Know That These Three***

***Were Very Close To Jesus***.

***Just So You Know How Close They Were To Jesus…***

***YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT JESUS HUNG OUT AT THEIR HOUSE!!***

***So lets pick up the story in…***

**John 11:1-3 NLT**

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. **2**This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord’s feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. **3**So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “**Lord, your dear friend is very sick**.”

***In The NIV Translation I Says It This Way***

3So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “**Lord, the one you love is sick.**”

***In The Message Bible Says It This Way***

**“Master, the one you love so very much is sick.”**

***When Lazarus Got Sick,***

***They Totally And Completely Expected Jesus***

***To Do What He Was Doing For Strangers***

***(HEALING THEM)***

***FOR HIM…***

***MAKES PERFECT SENSE!!***

***HE LOVED THEM DIDN’T HE***

**It Seems Like A No Brainer That**

**Jesus Would Do The Same Thing For Them!!**

**But As You And I Have Both Learned…**

**God Doesn't Always Make Sense.**

***They Wait And Jesus Doesn't Show Up.***

The Next Day, They Know Hey,

He's Going To Be Here, Just Took Him A While.

He's Going To Be Here.

Look, This Is Jesus. Lazarus, They're Close.

We Know He's Coming. We Know He's Coming.

The Next Evening Comes By.

I Can't Believe He's Not Here.

The Next Day We Know He's Coming.

We Know. We Believe. We Have Faith For This.

Then Chances Are, They Did A Little Bit Of What Sometimes I Do.

I Don't Know If You Do This Or Not,

But You Start Almost Reminding God

Why He Should Do Something For You.

I'm A Good Person, Right?

I Gave Some Money To…

Hey, Look, I Listen To Christian Radio,

The Same Songs Over And Over And Over Again.

That's How Much I Love You, God. I Listen To Christian Music.

Hey, I Tweeted A Verse Last Week, A Bible Verse.

Look How Bold I'm A Witness For You, God.

I Serve At Church.

That's How Holy I Am.

**I Did All These Kind Of Things, God,**

**So Certainly, It Just Makes Sense**

**That You're Going To Do This For Me.**

**We Were Close, Right, Jesus?**

**Jesus Doesn't Show Up.**

**Let me just share with you…**

**TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WAITING ON GOD**

1. **GOD’S DELAYS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOD’S DENIALS.**

In Other Words, Just Because God Hasn't Done It Yet…

Doesn't Mean That God's Not Going To Do It.

Just Because He Hasn't Answered Your Prayer Now…

Doesn't Mean He's Not Going To Answer Your Prayer.

***In fact, in verse 4, we read this about Jesus***

**John 11:4 NLT**

But when Jesus heard about it *(Now what did He hear? Remember…He heard the one that He loves is sick. Lazarus, His buddy, is in bade shape.)* he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”

Jesus Said Something Really Profound There…

It's Almost Like There's A New Category For Us To Know About.

***THIS IS HUGE FOR ALL OF US GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES!!***

***Let me remind you again why this happened…***

**John 11:4 NLT**

…it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.

**We Know This Now…**

**BUT, Mary And Martha Didn’t!**

**AND LET ME PROMISE YOU**

**THIS IS ALL TOO EASY TO FORGET  
WHEN YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HARD TIME**

**TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH IT!!**

**Many Delays Are Divine Delays**

**God Often Has A Reason For A “Not Yet.”**

Sometimes, You May Experience

What I Call A Divine Delay.

It's A God-Orchestrated Delay.

**In Fact, I Would Argue That Most Of The Time…**

**God Often Wants To Do Something In You**

**Before He Does Something For You.**

**WHEN I'VE BEEN WAITING ON GOD,**

**GOD HAS TAUGHT ME SOME VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT…**

**- Patience**, - **Depending** on Him,

**- Leaning** on Him - About **calling** on Him.

- To **walk by faith** and **not by sight**  - That **His ways** are higher than **my ways**,

- That when I am **weak**, that He is **strong**, - That **His strength** is made **perfect** in me.

**PLEASE REMEMBER**

**Just Because You Don’t See Anything Happening…**

**Doesn’t Mean God Isn’t Working.**

**Main Thought:**

**With God—Waiting Season Is Never A Wasted Season.**

***Lets jump back into the story…***

Several Days Later, Jesus Finally Gets There…

Seriously, It Just Seems So Rude.

They've Already Placed Lazarus' Body In The Tomb.

Not Only Did You Fall Woefully Short Of Healing Him,

But Worse…Jesus Wasn’t Even There To Console Them In Their Painful Loss...

This Doesn't Make Sense At All.

***Lets look at verse 17…***

**John 11:17** NLT

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that ***Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.***

**Let Me Share With You Why This Was Such A Big Deal!**

People In The First Century Had This Superstitious Belief

That For 3 Days, The Spirit Would Hover Over The Body,

So For The First 3 Days, They Actually Thought

The Spirit Of The Deceased Was Close Enough

Maybe There Could Be Some Miracle

**HOWEVER, By Day 4,**

**They Believe The Spirit Was Gone And So There Was No Hope.**

***Jump down to verse 21…***

REMEMBER THE STORY WHEN JESUS WAS OVER FOR DINNER…

**Martha** – Busy getting stuff done **Doer / Action**

**Mary** – Sitting at Jesus’ feet **Emotional / Relational / Feeler**

**John 11:20 NLT**

When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

**In My Mind I Can See Martha Pretty Emotional…**

**I Can Imagine She Had Quite A Bit Bottled Up On The Inside…**

**Martha's Going To Give Jesus A Piece Of Her Mind!**

I Can See The Way She’s Walking Towards Jesus…

The Pace / The Look In Her Eye…

Hand On Her Hip, Finger Out, Okay.

This Isn't In The Bible,

But It Just Seems That’s The Way It Could Have Been!

**John 11:21 NLT**

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Jesus, What Were You Thinking?

Why Didn't You Help?

I Just Don’t Get It.

I Thought We Were Close.

I Thought Lazarus Mattered To You!

I Have Heard And Seen What You Can Do!

This Wouldn’t Have Been Hard!

Why Couldn't You Even Do This For Us?

I love the reality of this text.

Let me read that part again and then I'll read the next verse.

**John 11:21-22 NLT**

“Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

**I Love The Reality Of That Because Quite Honestly,**

**That's Where I Live Often.**

**God, Why Didn't You When You Could Have**

**I Don't Understand,**

**But God, I Still Trust You**

**WHEN WAITING ON GOD REMEMBER…**

1. **GOD’S DELAYS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOD’S DENIALS.**

**NEXT…We Also Need To Remember…**

1. **IF GOD ALWAYS MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, HE’D NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEED THEM.**

Let that sink in for a minute.

**IF GOD ALWAYS MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS,**

**HE’D NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEED THEM.**

Let Me Explain It Like This.

Verse 21 NO HOPE!

There Is No Hope For Lazarus.

The 4 Days Have Gone By.

He Stinketh, Right? It's Over.

It's Like Jesus, You Let Us Down.

Verse 21 Broken Hearts.

BUT THIS ISN’T WHERE THE STORY ENDS!!

Verse 21 Lazarus is Dead!

**John 11:23-26 NLT**

Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” She's understandably confused. She doesn't get this. So she’s gonna throw down some theology… **24**“Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” **25**Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life.Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. **26**Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

**I Love That. 21, There Is No Hope.**

**23, Jesus Says, "Your Brother Will Rise Again."**

**MARY AND MARTHA WANTED A HEALING**

**JESUS WANTED A RESURRECTION.**

1. **GOD’S DELAYS ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOD’S DENIALS.**
2. **IF GOD ALWAYS MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, HE’D NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEED THEM.**

***Mary finds out that Jesus is there…***

***She also heads out to meet Jesus…***

**John 11:34-35 NLT**

They told him, “Lord, come and see.” **35*Then Jesus wept***.

**I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SEE JESUS’ EMOTION HERE!**

**I NEED TO SEE THIS!!!**

**John 11:39-42 NLT**

**39**“Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

**40**Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” **41**So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. **42**You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”

THIS IS AWESOME!

**John 11:43-44 NLT**

Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

**With God—Waiting Season Is Never A Wasted Season.**

**God’s Delays Are Not God’s Denials!**

**With God—Waiting Season Is Never Wasted Season!**

**I DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH!!**

Just because you are not married—Doesn’t God isn’t preparing someone!

Lost one job—Might be a better one coming!

Illness

Loss

Death

**THE SCENE OF YOUR GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT MAY BE**

**THE SETTING OF YOUR GREATEST MIRACLE.**

YOU MIGHT BE AT VERSE 21 RIGHT NOW…I’VE BEEN THERE!!

BUT PLEASE HERE ME TODAY…

THIS ISN’T THE END!!

So Let Me Share With You A Coupla Things I’ve Learned…

**1. Be Still**

**Psalm 46:10 NLT**

Be still, and know that I am God!

**Why…**

Because if you are like me you jump into I’ve gotta figure it out mode!

Instead…get your heart connected to Jesus!!

**Joshua 1:9 NLT**

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Talk To Him!

Tell Him How You Feel!

Tell Him The Truth!

-Be Authentic!

-Call It What It Is!!

-Tough Times ARE TOUGH! -STAY FAITHFUL

-STAY IN THE WORD!!

-STAY ON YOUR KNEES! -STAY CONNCECTED TO JESUS!

**2. Maintain Perspective**

***We Must Remember…***

**- Tough Times Are Part Of Life.**

**- Tough Times Can Be Our Own Fault.**

**- God Uses Tough Times In Our Lives.**

**Romans 8:28 NLT**

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.