

SICKNESS

Why We Have It

June 14, 2026

John 11:3-10

No. 1



Many people have questions about sickness.
Some people are born with a sickness.
Others contract sickness by no fault of their own.
And still others bring it upon themselves by poor choices and lifestyle.
And worst of all, some sickness leads to death.
So we ask the question, Why do we have sickness?
Maybe we can try to understand it through this series.
Ok;

Jesus is the God of the universe.
He put the sun, moon and stars in their place.
The wind and the sea obey Him.
He upholds all things by the word of His power.
How is it we read in:

Jn 11:3 *Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.*

This was Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha. They opened their home to Jesus quite often for food and rest.
They had often given Jesus the gift of peace and refreshment.
That's the beauty of a home. It's a place to find peace and refreshment.

Is your home like that? I hope it is.

William Barclay said;

"The greatest gift any human being can give another is - understanding and peace.

He added;

No man can have a greater gift to offer his fellow-man than rest for weary feet."

Be sure that is on the menu at home.

That's why;

Jesus loved them and they loved Him.

How is it,

Jesus, with all the power in the universe, has a loved one who is sick.

v.5 *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

The sisters sent word to Jesus because they knew who He was and what He could do. They loved Him and had expected Him to not allow Lazarus to endure any pain or discomfort from this sickness.

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What they did was right. They went to the One they loved and knew He loved them.

They went to the One who had the power and ability to make all things new.

They had high hopes that Jesus would come and save the day.

v.4 *But when Jesus heard this, He said, (probably to His disciples with Him), "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."*

Question:

How would Jesus be glorified by sick Lazarus?

The glory Jesus spoke about often referred to the Cross.

Two reasons for Lazarus' sickness:

1. A healing would bring glory to God
2. This event would lead Jesus to the Cross

Jesus spoke of glory:

Jn 12:23 Jesus said; *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*

v.24 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

Jesus knew the road to Bethany was the way to the Cross, but He went for His friend.

After the event in Bethany, later on in:

v.53 *So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.*

True friendship is not all good times. Sometimes it is picking up your cross for someone in need.

Sadly,

We live in a day of convenience, even when it comes to friendships.

People don't want to be inconvenienced, not even for a friend.

Now;

When we pray for things, especially for a healing of an affliction or a breakthrough for some struggle, we normally expect an immediate answer.

Mary and Martha were thinking that way.

v.6 *So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.*

What!

Why did Jesus wait to come to the one He loved?

Why didn't He just speak the word as He did in Luke 7?

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A Centurion's servant was terribly sick. He sent people to Jesus to ask Him to come and heal him.

But then he said, I am not even worthy for you to come to my house; *just say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

But Jesus didn't do that for Lazarus.

Two reasons:

1. After being dead 4 days, the miracle would be grander.
2. Jesus operates according to the Father's will, not man's.

He taught the disciples to pray,

"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

Yes,

God answers prayer, but,

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven Ecc 3:1

Two days later:

v.7 *Then after this He *said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."*

v.8 *The disciples *said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"*

Remember?

This was the road to glory through the Cross.

They tried it once before in Jn 10 when He said;

"I and the Father are one."

v.31 They picked up stones to stone Him

v.9 *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.*

v.10 *"But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."*

Jesus is saying, just as the day has an allotted time, the Father has given Me an allotted time. And I am in my 12th hour.

Nothing will happen to Me until my day is done and it will not be done till my work is finished.

Makes me consider my own life clock.

We all have so many hours to work the work of God.

Then, when darkness comes, (death), no one can work.

Time – nothing in the world can get it back.

You can get more:

- Money
- Lands

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- Houses
- Friends

But Time is a limited commodity!

It must be used in the most conscientious way.

There is time enough to live, but never enough to spare.

We will leave it here and pick up with Jesus and His disciples on their way to Bethany to see what they do with Lazarus.