

How To Prepare For Sickness

June 28, 2026

John 11; Matthew 6; Matthew 25

No. 3

We've been asking the question, how can a God who loves us allow us to be sick. That's what Mary and Martha asked Jesus when their brother Lazarus became sick. And to make matters worse, at least in their eyes, Jesus stayed two more days where He was after He was asked to come to Lazarus. Then,



After two days, Jesus said to His disciples, okay, let's go. But now they said Rabbi, if you go there now the Jews will kill you. And Jesus basically responded, nothing will happen to Me until my work is done here.

So off they went to Bethany to see what's going on with Lazarus.

Jn 11:17 *So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.*

v.18 *Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off;*

v.19 *and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.*

v.20 *Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.*

v.21 *Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.*

v.22 *"Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."*

v.23 *Jesus *said to her, "Your brother will rise again."*

v.24 *Martha *said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

v.25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,*

v.26 *and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

v.27 *She *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."*

So, Martha went out to Meet Jesus and met Him just outside of Galilee.

So,

Before we get there, I'd like us to learn a valuable lesson and that is, how to prepare for sickness.

This is important because sickness will come.

SICKNESS

We saw last time how sickness was a servant of God.

1. It helps to remind us of death

Heb 9:27 *it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

2. Sickness helps to soften our hearts and teach us wisdom

When we feel sick it exposes the emptiness of our hearts. We realize that all we have, the materialism, the wealth, all the "good things" we have amassed are to be held loosely because the things of this world cannot satisfy the soul when the body is sick.

3. Sickness has a way of making us humble

The sickbed has a way of leveling all people.

Sickness plays no favorites. From kings and queens to slaves and servants and everybody in between, sickness levels the playing field.

4. Sickness helps to try our religion and reveal what sort it is

Sickness and disease will expose the worthlessness of the soul's foundation.

Religion looks good on the outside until it is tested by sickness.

As the storms of winter bring out the defects in a man's dwelling, so sickness exposes the defects in what he has put his faith in.

5. Sickness helps to make us think seriously of God, our souls and the world to come

But sickness has a way of slowing us down and when we are grounded physically, our minds can be air-born.

One man calls it;

"God's day of visitation."

Today

"How To Prepare For Sickness"

I would like to give you several points on how to prepare for sickness:

1. Live ready to bear it patiently when it comes

When sickness comes it brings with it:

- Discomfort
- Pain
- Broken plans
- Can bring out our flesh

Think of sickness as visiting everyone, and then one day your turn comes. So while I'm waiting for it to come, I'm storing up grace in my heart.

SICKNESS

Ecc 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them";

Ie.

Build you spiritual walk in your strength so it will uphold you when you are weak.

Jesus said in:

Mt 6:19 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.*

v.20 *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;*

These are the diamonds that sparkle in the darkness of the sick bed. Your life becomes a silent sermon.

2. Live ready to help bear someone else's sickness

There are few families and few churches who have not been touched by sickness.

Wherever there is sickness there is a call to duty.

This is the time Jesus was talking about when He said;

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Mt 5:16

"glorify your Father in heaven"

Where did we hear that before?

Oh yeah,

Jn 11:4 when Jesus said; This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God,

I love our church because we have people who visit, write cards and make meals for those infirm.

That's the gold, silver and precious stones Paul spoke about at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

It doesn't take a lot to bring glory to God.

Jesus also said;

"And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." Mt 10:42

How about during the Great Tribulation:

SICKNESS

Mt 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

v.35 *'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;*

v.36 *naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'*

v.37 *"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?*

v.38 *'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?*

v.39 *'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

v.40 *"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'*

You could say someone else's sickness is for you. What will you do about it?

Perhaps God is testing the feelings of the healthy.

So far:

In preparing for sickness

1. Live ready to bear it patiently when it comes
2. Live ready to help bear someone else's sickness

Lastly;

3. Live ready to meet God

This is a lesson all people need to learn whether healthy or sick, but especially the sick.

When are you prepared to meet God?

Never, until your sins are forgiven.

When are you prepared to meet God?

Never, until your heart is renewed.

It is the Blood of Jesus Christ alone that can cleanse those sins away.

Only His Righteousness can make you acceptable to God.

Do you know if you are prepared to meet God?

What is your faith in?

We are by nature against God.

Therefore, it takes being made a "new creation" where old things have passed away and new things have come.

Do you know if you are prepared to meet God?

Where is your grace?

That is the evidence of your conversion and sanctification.

This is what prepares us to meet God.

SICKNESS

We are:

- Justified by faith
- Sanctified by the Spirit
- Washed by the blood

Threefold preparation for sickness:

1. Live ready to bear it patiently when it comes
2. Live ready to help bear someone else's sickness
3. Live ready to meet God

NEXT TIME

"The Glory Of God In Sickness"