

## SICKNESS

### Sickness Is A Servant Of God

June 21, 2026

John 11:7-15

No. 2



Last time together we began to ask the question,  
Why sickness?

We don't like being sick. It changes everything,  
stops us from enjoying life.

And yet,

We believe in a God who loves us and yet He  
allows us to be sick.

So there must be something good that can come from it, would you  
say?

We left off last with word getting to Jesus that His friend, who He  
loved was sick. When Jesus got the message to come to help him, He  
stayed two more days where He was!

What!

I thought He loved Lazarus!

So we pick it up in:

**Jn 11:7** After the two days:

*He \*said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."*

That's when the disciples said to Him in:

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

That's when Jesus said, I have to work while I have the opportunity,  
when darkness comes, at my death, I will no longer be able to work.

**v.11** *This He said, and after that He \*said to them, "Our friend  
Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of  
sleep."*

**v.12** *The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he  
will recover."*

**v.13** *Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He  
was speaking of literal sleep.*

**v.14** *So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,*

*So,*

The question arises again, why would a God who loves His friend now  
allow him to die?

And then Jesus added:

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**v.15** *and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."*

Jesus is saying I'm glad I wasn't there because if I was, I would have been pressured to heal him right away and that was not the plan of the Father.

So,

When Jesus says, *I am glad for your sakes*

It was to be a miracle that would solidify their belief in Him as the Son of God.

Now:

When Jesus says He is glad about something, it means He has a plan. The sickness and death of Lazarus is not without reason and beyond His control.

### **The Benefits Of Sickness On Mankind**

A "benefit" is a good or helpful result.

The mind that is far from God sees sickness as a weakness in God's government of the world.

This is where skeptics dwell.

They question how a loving God can allow pain, sickness and disease and especially death.

He can prevent any and all sicknesses and diseases, but He does not.

Actually,

The benefit of sickness is not physical but spiritual.

Yes,

Sickness comes in like a curse, (because it is), but it also resides as a blessing. It is a harsh schoolmaster but a friend to your soul.

I want to give you 5 benefits of physical sickness:

#### **1. It helps to remind us of death**

Most people live as if they were never going to die. They live in such a way that they give no thought to it or to eternity .

They plan and live as if this earth was their eternal home.

Man has become the commander of his own life and living his life accordingly.

Then,

Sickness strikes.

It awakens us from our daydream and reminds us that dying is part of living.

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

How many will be ready for the judgment of God?

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

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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.

When I'm lying in bed with pain, and I look out the window at my shiny new car, it's not that shiny any more.  
When I look at my big, beautiful house and I feel awful, it's now only become brick and wood.  
And in excruciating pain, I look at my children with more love than I ever had before.

### **3. Sickness has a way of making us humble**

We are by nature proud and lifted up. How often do we flatter ourselves when we look at someone else who, in our own mind, is not at the level we are.

A sick bed can tame that old sin nature and subdue it.

Sickness reminds us that we are all poor worms who, as Job said;  
*How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before the moth!* Job 4:19

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**

There are not many with no religion, though too many I fear.

And there are those whose religion cannot bear up under scrutiny. It is mere tradition, something they were born into.

Sickness and disease will expose the worthlessness of their soul's foundation. There is no solid ground on which to stand on. No Rock to hold him up.

He now realizes he has been worshipping a god he does not really know.

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.

Lastly;

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

The time of health usually leaves no room for such thinking. There is life to live and much to do.

God? – who needs Him?

The soul? – what is it?

Eternity? – is there really one?

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But sickness has a way of slowing us down and when we are grounded physically, our minds can be air-born.  
Sickness is no respecter of persons and from kings to servants, it treats us all the same.

In II Ki 8 a wicked king named Ben-hadad was sick and sent word to the man of God.  
He said;  
*go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"* II Ki 8:8

remember Jonah's boat ride when he tried to escape from God?  
A great storm hit and the boat was in danger of sinking.  
Jonah 1:5 "Every man cried to his god"  
Vs. 6 The captain came to Jonah and said;  
*How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god.*

Sickness is a painful thing but it can serve a purpose, as we just saw.  
One man calls it;  
"God's day of visitation."

*NEXT TIME*

"How To Prepare For Sickness"