



Delight- Part 8 - "Enemies of Delight (Part 2)"

John 11:1-10

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

John 11:14-15

So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

John 11:32-35

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

Jesus wept.

John 11:41-44

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Key Points

- Our despair can become an enemy of delight.
- We all experience moments where we wonder "What is the world coming to?"
- If we find our delight in good circumstances or safety, it will eventually fall short.
- In the midst of despair, God's glory is put on display.
- When you look at the world and say "What is the world coming to?", maybe that's where you are supposed to go.
- Our delight is not contingent on circumstances, it is contingent on Jesus.

READ

Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- **Read John 11:1-10, 14-15.** How does Jesus' response to the news about Lazarus speak to Him always being in control even when we can't see or sense that is the case?
- **Read John 11:25-27, 32-35.** How did Jesus display empathy for Mary and her despair? What did Jesus want her to understand in the middle of the pain she was feeling?
- **Read John 11:41-44.** How was God's glory put on display during this miracle?

REFLECT

- How does despair serve as an enemy of delight?
- In what ways does despair shape the way we view and respond to our circumstances?
- What is the danger in our delight being tied to our circumstances?

RESPOND

- We all experience moments where we wonder "What is the world coming to?" When is the last time you were confronted with that question?
- Are there places in your life where despair has you in its grips?
- When you look at the world and say "What is the world coming to?", maybe that's where you are supposed to go. How can you respond to the despair you see around you by bringing the hope you have in Jesus Christ to it?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.