

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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WE GOD SEEMS LATE

John 11

When someone we love dies, we have this basic feeling that it just isn't fair. We all assume we're going to live long lives and it just seems like an aberration that death would come and change everything. And really, it's true. It isn't fair. It isn't good. It is harsh and mean and rips people away that we love. Death is not a friend. Death is the enemy. 1 Corinthians 15:26 says, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." It takes people away in the prime of life. It cuts lives short.

God never intended for people to die. His original plan for us in the Garden of Eden was to live forever, but our first parents, Adam and Eve, ate the forbidden fruit and sin spread like a plague across humanity and death came with it.

In John 11, we read about the death of Lazarus, and there are a few points we can take away from it.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. Life is filled with pain and sorrow and the death of loved ones.** We are shocked sometimes when it happens to us. We think it is going to happen to someone that we read about in the paper. But loved ones die, and it reminds us of our own mortality.
- 2. God loves us.** Whatever he allows to happen in your life is either motivated by His love or allowed by His love. We can fall back on that fact when we don't understand what's going on around us.
- 3. Jesus weeps with us in our times of pain.** Jesus, according to Isaiah 53, was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows acquainted with the most bitter grief. Jesus bore your sins and also carried your sorrows. So if hurts you, it affects Him. If it causes you pain, He cares. Jesus wept. That says a lot about how He looks at us and how He cares about us. Death breaks God's heart, just as it breaks our hearts.
- 4. God can be glorified in human suffering and He can bring good out of bad.** Sometimes through suffering some of the best things in life can happen. Sometimes that rejection, that demotion, that firing, that setback, that break-up—whatever it is—can be something that propels you forward in a way you never imagined.

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

- God's delays are not necessarily his denials.
- We live on promises, not explanations. I don't know that we will ever understand some of the things that have happened to us here in this life, but I think we will understand them we get to Heaven.
- Death died when Christ rose.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Jesus is greater than anything this world offers and He's the one you need to turn to because He's the only one who can save. He's just a prayer way. Call on Him in prayer.