

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Behavior of Love

Life Group Discussion
July 12, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experiencelibrary.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **John 11**

"Love means never having to say you're sorry" is a catchphrase based on a line from the Erich Segal novel *Love Story*.

- If asked to finish this phrase in your own words, how would you end the sentence *Love means...*In other words what does love mean to you?

The first miracle Jesus performed was turning water into wine at a wedding feast in the city of Cana. A wedding is a time of rejoicing.

- Is there anything wrong with having fun at church? Can we dance and shout and lift up our hands and sing, etc without feeling judged? Why do you think some people are so rigid in their praise and worship?

The last miracle of Jesus was the raising of Lazarus at a funeral. Funerals are difficult for families. Yet in the story of Lazarus we find a reason to rejoice when Lazarus is raised from death.

- How can we find joy in our lives when a loved one passes away?
- The promise of Jesus to the sisters of Lazarus was this: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. How does this promise comfort us in the pain of losing someone?

Reading John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. **7** Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

Consider the heartbreak of Mary and Martha upon realizing Jesus wasn't immediately coming to their home. TWO days passed and by that time Lazarus was dead and buried.

- Have you ever experienced a time when you didn't understand why Jesus didn't answer a prayer you lifted up? *Share that experience.* Did your trust in Jesus falter during that time?
- How often do we question the motives of Jesus without first questioning our motives for prayer? I know I am selfish sometimes in my wanting Jesus to do what I want him to do, when I want him to do it. What is the proper way to approach Jesus with our prayers and supplications?

Isn't it odd to read that verse 5 states Jesus loved Martha and Mary and verse 6 states when Jesus heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed two days more where he was?

- What was the real reason for Jesus staying away for two days? (You'll find the answer in verse 4.)
- Pastor Dusty stated that sometimes we get caught up in the events of life and we do not see the real reason(s) for God allowing His will to be played out in our life. So often we would like Jesus to do things our way. In our day to day life of struggle(s), how can we focus *not* primarily on the struggle itself but rather the glory of God that can come from the struggle? What steps can we take to help us not become anxious, worrisome or even mad at God?
- God's desire is for us to pursue intimacy with Him, sometimes causing us to be broken. What does the pursuit of God mean?

Because Jesus loved this family. Jesus allowed them to suffer that they might see Him for who He ultimately is. The kind of love expressed in verse 4 is *agape* love.

- Describe the kinds of love you have experienced in your life.

Agape love is a sacrificial love. Biblical agape love is the love of choice, the love of serving with humility, the highest kind of love, the noblest kind of devotion, the love of the will (intentional, a conscious choice) and not motivated by superficial appearance, emotional attraction, or sentimental relationship.

- Describe a time you have offered a sacrificial love to help someone in need.
- Ultimately, the sacrificial love of Jesus (agape love) was displayed on the cross. The final proof of Christianity is the sight of what Jesus Christ can do. Words may fail to convince, but there is no argument against God in action. What actions can you take to display the love of Christ to others?

What do you think the glory of God looks like in your life?

- Can you take a step back and look at your life in the light of suffering (on whatever level that means to you) to obtain a glimpse of the Glory of God?

Think about this:

Christians are often faced with decisions as to whether a certain course of action would be right or wrong for them. Here is a good rule to apply: Is there any glory for God in it? Can you bow your head before you participate in it and ask the Lord that He will be magnified by what you are about to do? If what you do does not glorify God or the Kingdom of God, then most likely you should refrain from it.