



**DESPERATE FOR
HIM
JOHN 11:1-43**

Desperate For Him

- Doug Newton spoke with a 97-year-old church member who had eye surgery the day before
 - When she was young her family migrated from Texas to Kentucky in covered wagons to be sharecroppers
 - Hunger, blisters, and tattered clothes defined her growing-up years
 - He asked her, “Miss Flora, have you had any pain since the surgery?”
 - “No”, she said, “No pain. It hurts quite a bit, but no pain.”
 - In her world physical pain (“hurts quite a bit”) didn’t even qualify as pain

Desperate For Him

- What happens to the moral strength of people who are immersed in a technology-driven culture that prizes and provides user-friendly, instantaneous satisfaction
 - A remote push button adjusts the conditions in our lives – we develop an aversion to hard work
 - A drive-up window and online ordering – we develop an aversion to waiting
 - We each can record our own playlist – we don't have to adapt

Desperate For Him

- What happens to the moral strength of people who are immersed in a technology-driven culture that prizes and provides user-friendly, instantaneous satisfaction
 - We have a pain; we take a pill – we don't have to face discomfort, so we are conditioned to avoid pain
 - When we live in a world where so much comes so easily, we tend to become morally weaker people
 - People who find it hard to choose to do what's right when it requires long waiting or difficulties

Desperate For Him

- God has one character tool He has used throughout history, and He always uses it effectively: desperation
- **Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NIV**, “2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
- That sounds harsh, not very loving to our moral ears today

Desperate For Him

- But God's plan is to make us desperate for Him and move us when we lack moral power
- Desperation - feeling, showing, or involving a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with
- And only God knows when we have reached the point where desperation does its work in us

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:1-6 NIV**, Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (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.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”
 - What would be the assumption of Lazarus’ sisters?

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:1-6 NIV**, 4 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.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,
 - How hard to you think this would have been for Jesus to wait?

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:11-15 NIV**, 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” 12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”
 - What did the disciples know about this event?
 - The disciples started the trip back with great expectations
 - What did Mary and Martha know?

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:17-27 NIV**, 17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”
 - What is Martha asking Jesus to do?

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:17-27 NIV**, 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live (*again*), even though they die (*physically*); 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die (*eternally*). Do you believe this?” 27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:17-27 NIV**, 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”
 - Jesus needed Martha and His disciples to grasp He is the source of both the resurrection and life
 - There is no resurrection apart from Christ, and there is no eternal life apart from Christ

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:17-27 NIV**, 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”
 - Jesus was also making a statement concerning His divine nature
 - He does more than give life; He is life, and therefore death has no ultimate power over Him
 - Jesus grants this spiritual life to those who believe in Him, so that they share His triumph over death (**1 John 5:11-12**)
 - Believers in Jesus Christ will experience resurrection because, having the life Jesus gives, it is impossible for death to defeat them (**1 Corinthians 15:53-57**)

The Raising Of Lazarus – John 11:1-43

- **John 11:32-37 NIV**, 32 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.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”
 - Why do you think Jesus wept? He knew what He was going to do

Our Lord hurts when we hurt

- Jesus told His disciples what He was going to do but not the one's who needed it most when He arrived
- Jesus' friends were waiting and waiting. Watching helplessly as their brother suffered and died knowing Jesus could have healed him
- Did Jesus really care about us?
- Do you think Jesus knew what He was putting them through?

Our Lord hurts when we hurt

- When Jesus finally arrived and faced their grief and saw their despair, torn hearts, and tear-stained face – He wept
- It was the sight that caused Jesus to be *“deeply moved in spirit and troubled”*
- Not Lazarus’ death, but the degree of desperation, hurt, pain, separation in his sisters
- And Jesus did it all on purpose

It is in periods of desperation where we finally let loose of us and allow our moral compass to point to Jesus

- As I look back at my life, I am confident God has overseen all that has happened to me
 - Directing my path toward the fully good goals God chose for me
 - Almost always identified when looking back
 - The major advances always involved desperation
 - This is God's way of helping us choose His will without crushing our own

It is in periods of desperation where we finally let loose of us and allow our moral compass to point to Jesus

- He nudges us to the very brink of making the right choices then steps back and leaves us right there to participate in the thrilling leap of “I am the resurrection and life...Do you believe this Martha?”
- He does not pad our falls but lets us be broken but not without hope
- He does not rescue us until we feel helpless
- **Deuteronomy 11:18 NIV**, “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds”
- So, when they break His words can fall in

It is in periods of desperation where we finally let loose of us and allow our moral compass to point to Jesus

- God always knows when and why and how long to let us cry and it is always longer than you think
- If we are to experience the fullness of life God makes available through the Holy Spirit, we must be desperate for it
- There is no use in God offering us a feast if we have no appetite for it
- We can't make ourselves hungry

It is in periods of desperation where we finally let loose of us and allow our moral compass to point to Jesus

- He causes and allows our hunger to grow, our thirst to deepen, and our drives to intensify and remain unfilled until we reach a desperate point where only one right choice will feed our starving souls
- “He humbles us, causing us to hunger, then feeds us with manna”
(Deut. 8:2)

Jesus' own sorrow ignites when He takes us deep into desperation

- Notice how Jesus identified with Mary and Martha even though He knew the blessing about to happen in their lives
- What love Jesus shows us when He wept
- He wept for how He made them weep and the effects of sin in their lives, even if it was necessary

Jesus' own sorrow ignites when He takes us deep into desperation

- There was a purpose in their suffering
 - To see and know Jesus with a fresh understanding
 - He is not just the Messiah as Mary, Martha, and Lazarus understood at that time
 - He is not just the life giver or grantor
 - He is the Resurrection and Life

Jesus' own sorrow ignites when He takes us deep into desperation

- There was a purpose in their suffering
 - His resurrection and life doesn't flow to us
 - We are grafted into His resurrection and His life
 - We are not struggling to keep His life within us, He wraps around us like a grafted limb and holds us tight
 - Jesus is the Resurrection and Life, and we are His grafted in sons and daughters receiving all from the Tree of Life, Jesus

Jesus' own sorrow ignites when He takes us deep into desperation

- Ben Patterson in *Waiting: Finding Hope When God Seems Silent*, “It isn’t easy to wait. It demands persistence when common sense says “give up.” It says “believe” when there is no present evidence to back it up. Faith is forged in delay. Character is forged in delay. The forge is the gap between the promise and the fulfillment. As gold is purified and shaped in the white-hot heat of a forge, so we and our faith are purified and shaped in waiting.”



**DESPERATE FOR
HIM
JOHN 11:1-43**