

John 11 Discussion questions

Comprehension – Recall what the scripture says.

Interpretation

Two more days. Two. Jesus receives word that one of his closest friends is very ill and he intentionally waits to even start the journey. Think about when you hear that a loved one is hospitalized, how quickly do you get there? How could Jesus intentionally delay? What do you think Thomas meant in v16? Die with Jesus or with Lazarus? We know Thomas mostly as a doubter but this shows us another side of him.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming and she went out to meet him. Martha...not Mary. Later we see in v39 she's slipping a little bit back into practicality mode and Jesus reminds her of his words. What does this say about Martha's spiritual journey? In verses 35 & 38 we see a very emotional Jesus concerning Lazarus' death and all of the grief and mourning surrounding him. What does this tell us about our Jesus? Why are the chief priests so anti-Jesus? They see he's doing wonderful things and 'miraculous signs' yet they are out to stop him.

Do you think Caiaphas understand the full meaning of his words in v. 49-50?

Application

Asking Jesus to help doesn't guarantee fast/immediate results. These were Jesus' **BFFs**, yet he didn't come running to rescue them immediately. Can you think of some prayer concerns/requests that you're waiting on the answers for? How can this help your perspective?

Have you ever thought of yourself as the one Jesus loves? Have you ever prayed, "Jesus, it's me, the one you love." Do you believe that? Will you try it?

Martha, Martha, Martha! How do you identify with Martha? Remember the Martha in Luke 10, how far the Martha of John has come! How far have you come in your faith walk? Can you identify ways you really have changed because of your relationship with Jesus?

In v. 37, some comment that if Jesus could heal the blind, why didn't he save this man. Do you ever catch yourself in trap, why me or why not me?

From this vantage point, we can see the chief priests had hardened hearts, they were not willing to relinquish their titles or their pride and open their hearts to Jesus no matter how many miracles they witnesses or heard about. Are there people in your life with hard hearts? What is the best approach when dealing with them?