

## “It Happened for the Glory of God”



3/23/15

### John 11:1-4 - It happened for the “glory” of God

1. A man named **Lazarus was sick**. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.  
2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters **sent a message to Jesus** telling him, "**Lord, your dear friend is very sick.**"

4 But when **Jesus heard** about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, **it happened for the glory of God** so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."

- Lazarus was sick-he died.
- He had two sisters he lived with, Mary and Martha.
- Mary later poured expensive perfume on Jesus feet, wiped with her hair.
- The sisters “sent a message” for Jesus to come, our brother is sick.
- Jesus “heard” their plea. (He hears yours too)
- Jesus waited.....
- All of this happened that God would get the glory for what was about to happen to Lazarus.

### Insight:

- **Jesus “heard”**- but did not come immediately. How often do we call on God only to “hear nothing” from him? What do I do in this circumstance; how do I keep a right attitude; how come this is happening to me; why don’t I hear anything from you; I’m downright mad about this and I really don’t know how to deal with this anymore; I’m at my wits end! I NEED to hear from you Father, help me!
- **It happened for the “glory of God”** –As I am journaling this morning, I am reminded of a small, 5 year old child that was just diagnosed with terminal, inoperable, cancer. I can’t even begin to imagine the sorrow, grief and pain

the parents are feeling right now. How do you trust and believe God for a miracle? That is the only thing that will save this child life.

- How is the possible death of a small child (the doctors give no hope) going to bring glory to God??? In tears and oftentimes, anger, we ask why God, why? How and what do we do to comfort these parents and family members? PRAY, PRAY, PRAY and believe MIRACLE!!!

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- Lord help our doubt and unbelief, strengthen and encourage these parents, family and friend. **It happened for the "glory of God.** We can't see what tomorrow holds for any of us, all we can do is take one day at a time and "take Jesus at His Word"

- He will hold our hand in all of our sorrow and pain, He is right there, all the time, TRUST Him, and stand on God's unchanging Words. Draw strength and power from Him. **Stand, stand, stand and stand some more. Ask Him to help you NOT ASK WHY, or fall into an angry spirit - trust Him and trust Him some more.**

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- Father we lift up this family to you and pray and believe you for a miraculous healing in your Name, that **You get all the GLORY for this child's healing.** We give you all the honor and glory and praise for what you are going to do in the child and her family in the days to come. Amen

## “Follow the Light”



**Date:** 3/24/15

### **John 11:5-11**

5 So although **Jesus loved** Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 **he stayed where he was** for the next two days. 7 **Finally**, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

8 But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

9 Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. **They can see because they have the light of this world.** 10 But at **night there is danger of stumbling** because they have no light." 11 Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but **now I will go and wake him up.**"

- Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
- Jesus "**stayed**" where he was 2 more days.
- **Finally**, Jesus says, "Let's go see Lazarus".
- There is danger of stumbling in the dark.
- **NOW** Jesus goes to wake up Lazarus.

6. **He stayed where he was** for the next two days. 7 **Finally.....** Jesus "stayed" where He was for 2 more days. That's 48 hours of silence and waiting and doubting and worrying and dealing with fear and sorrow on Mary and Martha's part. Why wait 48 hours (it was actually 96 total hours before Lazarus is brought back to life)?? How could such a long delay be good, this is too painful and too hard! God works in "us" and "others" during these "48-96" hours of silence and down time. How do we deal with this? Do we stand, trust, wait patiently and believe no matter what our circumstances around us look like?

Do we have others to help support and comfort us? How do we make it through these 48 – 96 hours?? There will be tears, possible anger, doubt, just flat not knowing which way to turn or where to go for peace and comfort and healing. All we "Can do" is trust, wait and

pray, believing that **at any moment God will come through** with direction, help and guidance in our present journey....

**FINALLY**, Jesus comes to see Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. **They can see because they have the light of this world**.....

Why does it appear Jesus changed the subject matter in verses 9 and 10?

Light and darkness – Jesus/Satan

I was stuck on the “12 hours in a day” until later in the day, while waiting on my oil change; I was able to take advantage of about 2 hours of study time.

**I got this, for me it is saying:** *Spend my time wisely, only so many hours in a day, and I won't get today ever again.* Make good choices, use wisdom and follow God's instructions and I will get those from studying His word.

We walk safely during the day with God's grace and protection. We are protected by His ministering angels. (Look up verse here). Jesus is the **LIGHT** of the world, we can **SEE** because we are saved, born again, transformed from darkness to light.

**Matthew Henry Commentary: The spiritual meaning of the Lord's words is as follows: The Lord Jesus was walking in perfect obedience to the will of God. There was thus no danger of His being killed before the appointed time. He would be preserved until His work was done.**

*In a sense this is true of every believer. If we are walking in fellowship with the Lord and doing His will, there is no power on earth that can kill us before God's appointed time. The person who walks in the night is one who is not faithful to God, but is living in self-will. This man stumbles easily because he does not have divine guidance to illuminate his pathway.*

Vs. 10- But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light. Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus (we are Jesus friends if we are saved) has fallen asleep, **but NOW** I will go wake him up.

**Night**=lost without Jesus-Satan works in the darkness-Strongholds and addictions=Results in stumbling and falling. Confession-Salvation=Freedom.

Not listening to the Holy Spirit will cause us to stumble and even backslide along with caring bitterness, unforgiveness and pride.

Wake Up! Oh sleeper (Lukewarm Christians). Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you, wake your spirit up, “become” new, transformed and alive through Jesus love, grace and

forgiveness. **Jesus saves the sinner-we once were “dead” in our sins and NOW we are alive in Jesus Christ-Seen the LIGHT. This is a picture of salvation. Amen!**

## “Write on the tablet of my Heart”



**Date: 3/24/15**

(While waiting for real estate class to begin)

**John 11:12-16**

The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” **They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.**

- Be careful to not misunderstand what the Word says.
- Misconceptions of the Word.
- Wrong interpretations of the Word.
- Don’t take God’s Word out of context when studying. (Do make it personal and applicable to your daily life).

**Say what you mean and mean what you say.**

And for “your sakes”, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for NOW you will really believe, COME, let’s go see him. For “your sakes”... NOW believe..... Come, “lets go”.

- Faith without works is dead.
- Without faith it is impossible to please God.
- Whatsoever is not faith is sin.
- Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things not seen.
- Faith believes without SEEING the final outcome.
- God is in control-He has the perfect plan for our lives – step by step, day by day, moment by moment – we just need to learn “how to” trust Him and not worry so much. Help me Jesus!
- Total dependence on Him.
- Faith+Action+Time = Answered Prayers
- He knows what’s best for us.
- Trust God, follow the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Father don’t let these be mere words on paper; write them upon the tablet of my heart.

We have a new acronym today:

# T.A.B.L.E.T

Trust

Apply

Believe

Look

Engage

The Word



16. Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go too and die with Jesus”. What is Thomas talking about? What’s the meaning of his nickname, Twin? They weren’t big enough to die with Jesus. Everyone left Him when he was crucified.

Would I have left Him too. Yes I am sure I would be guilty too. I have yet to really be able to comprehend all that Jesus did for me, His death, burial and resurrection. I know it, I believe it, I accepted Him as my personal Savior, and I am thankful for all of this; oftentimes my mind has to just “chill” and accept all He has for me and move forward in striving to serve Him new each day.

Jesus was going back to Judea, where Lazarus was, and it was reported that the people of Judea were trying to stone Him when He was last there. Now He's going **back to do more "ministry"** – God's calling and assignment for Him. Death had no hold or fear on Him.

What has God called you to do? What sin or stronghold is keeping you away from a sweet relationship with the Father? Are you as committed to service as Jesus was? He was, and is our example and mentor. God help us follow your leading.

**We can "follow and die" daily! Die to sinful desires. Die to the flesh. Crucify the flesh. To be dead to sin is to be "alive" with Jesus.**

***YES! I can strive to DIE with Jesus each and every new day! When I fall, GRACE picks me back up – so I pray I can give back the same grace to others.***

I love it when I get "confirmation" of something God's word has said to me. Today the bible verse on my bible app was as follows: There was the true LIGHT even the LIGHT which LIGHTETH every man, coming into the world. Our study in chapter eleven has been about Jesus being the LIGHT. (Daylight)

## “Timing is everything with God”



**Date:** 3/27/15

**John 11:17-19**

When Jesus came he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb 4 days (96 hours) already. ... Many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary to **console** them concerning their brother.

- *Jesus had a plan and purpose for waiting 96 hours to raise Lazarus from the dead.*
- *God teaches us to “wait” upon Him, to trust Him, believe Him. Our trials are for us, not against us, they teach us patience and perseverance while increasing our faith in Him; it also builds character within us.*
- ***Timing is everything with God**- we think He is taking too long, not answering our prayers in a manner we want. **He may be working on the “other end”, in other peoples’ lives as He orchestrates the plan.***
- *What if God is ready to move forward in your prayer requests, but there are other people involved in the picture, He has to wait on them to get it together, before He can answer your prayer... food for thought. (Guess what, waiting time)*
- *He doesn’t show us everything in advance, one step at a time and He “**works behind the scenes**” in ways we are unaware of = this teaches us to wait and trust, that’s all we can do!*
- *Our family and friends are there to console us in times of sorrow.*



## “Lord, if only you had been here”

3/30/15

### John 11:20-23

20 When Martha got word that **Jesus was coming, she went to meet him**. But Mary stayed in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "**Lord, if only you had been here**, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that **God will give you whatever you ask**." 23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

- **Jesus was coming; she went to meet him.....**
- **Lord, if only you had been here....**
- **God will give you whatever you ask....**

Today is a new week and new day, so as I sit here and look at these words, I am not sure what I will hear yet. Let me get another cup of “java” (coffee, no foo foo coffee at my house, gotta go to Starbucks for that treat”. Be back in a few....

- **We can meet Jesus** every time we sit still/take time to be with our Savior and open our ears to “hear” what He has to say to us.
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- **Lord, if only you had been here....** **He is here**, we may not always feel His presence or know the direction to go in any given matter, but these are times we can “put into practice” what we have been learning from the Word. God shows us all the truth we will ever need in His word; then when life “happens”, and we stand in the middle of it, we can hold onto the words/truths we have been given. They will bring peace, comfort and direction. Even if you only have one word you can remember, that’s all you will need, listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks softly to your soul; hang onto Him, don’t take His promptings/nudges lightly, it is God’s gift to you, use it for His glory and your direction/road map. Thank you Jesus!!
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- **God will give you whatever you ask....** Be careful with this one. Don’t be guilty of only going to Jesus with a “wish list” or when you’re in trouble. **WARNING! This verse is not “applicable” for selfish reasons.** Once again, we have to be very careful not to take the word “out of context”. **We can’t “pick and choose”** from the bible only what we want to believe, or think will benefit “us”. That is not what the

Christian life is all about. It will involve, sacrifice, commitment, and self discipline. Just because we get saved, doesn't mean that life is going to be easy and God is responsible to spoon feed us everything we need and want.

***This is tough**, but we have to face the truth and "hard facts". Father please help us to have open ears and hearts to accept your word for what you are telling us, and help us to walk it out. When your word is telling us something that totally goes "against" our fleshly desires and will, **change our hearts**, soften our spirit and change us so we are "able to act upon" what you want us to do today. (Be doers of the word and not hearers only) Amen.*



# “YES”

3/30/15

## John 11:24-29

24 **"Yes,"** Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." 25 Jesus told her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.** Do you believe this, Martha?"

27 **"Yes, Lord,"** she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." 28 Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, **"The Teacher is here and wants to see you."** 29 So **Mary immediately went to him.**

*How appropriate today's study is, **next Sunday is Easter.** Our study is about Jesus life/death/resurrection; God is always right on time, never early and never late. Will you say YES to Jesus today? Yes to eternal life, a life that is everlasting after we take our last breath? Are you ready to meet Jesus?*

- **"Yes,"**
- **"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying".**
- **"Yes, Lord,"**
- **"The Teacher is here and wants to see you."**
- **Mary immediately went to him.**

**Yes - what does that mean?** Agree with someone about a matter, submission, willing to be humble, willing to take responsibility for your actions, trusting and believing.....

## 3/31/15-John 11:24-29

There is a song that comes to mind, some of the words are: **Yes Lord, Yes Lord, Yes, Yes, Yes.** How often do we "lip sing" words to praise songs in church and don't even hear what we are singing? Busted! We want so much to "do" what is right and walk in accordance to God's will, but it just isn't easy. Nothing worthwhile ever is easy, right?

I'm in the middle of something right now, that I am not sure how it will all come out. I got mad about it first, then made up my mind, either way this matter goes, I'm gonna keep my peace and ask God to help me keep a right attitude. Help me hear what He really wants and not just go by how I feel. Do you know how hard that is? DUH, we all do, this is called "life".

When you're in the middle of something and you believe your right about what you're dealing with, but on the other hand, how right is the other person that is involved? **Do we agree to disagree?**

When you're dealing with someone in authority over you, how much of "disagreeing" is ok? How much is "disrespect". Just because the person you're dealing with is the authority and you are to submit and respect them doesn't mean they can't be wrong. They are human just as I am, and have to deal with doing the right thing, just as I do. Where do you go with this? **Pray and wait and don't move too fast!** God help me to hear you and work on the other end in my behalf. Amen

Trust me girlfriend, I was packing up my goodies and ready to hang it up. I was using my energy on things that I had not worked on in years. What I mean by that is, I have two web sites and I went back and worked almost all weekend updating and revising and cleaning up one of them. I had things on there that were probably 3 years old that should have been removed years ago.

I was "motivated" big time to get back into the Salt Shakin Sister mode. Does God have a reason for my taking the time out and updating these sites? My passion for serving and sharing has not diminished by any means. I just don't know what God will do with all the gifting He has placed inside my heart.

I know He has a perfect plan, so all I can do is say "YES" Father; sit quiet and keep on moving through my daily life with open ears and praying for Him to help me "DO" the right thing, regardless of my feelings.

- **"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying".**

We hear this all our life, have we become complacent to what it really means? This coming Sunday is Easter, and we celebrate Jesus. How many people will go to church this one day of the year and never darken the doors again until, maybe Christmas?

I have eternal life! **I have no fear of dying**, because I know I will still live after death because of Jesus. I believe, I have hope because of Jesus. Do you "hope" you will go to heaven? Hoping and knowing are worlds apart; a great gulf between salvation and condemnation, eternal death.

**God gives us a free will** – we choose which place we will spend our eternity. It's not about being good enough or doing good works in this life. You simply have to give your heart to Jesus, confess your sins and ask Him to come into your heart and save you. He does all the work; we have nothing (no good works on our part) to do with it. All we have to do is simply, believe. Romans 10: 9 & 10, check it out.

- **"The Teacher is here and wants to see you."**
- **Mary immediately went to him.**

The Teacher – Jesus – Holy Spirit – Counselor – Comforter; is here and wants to see you and I. When we take God's word and **make it "personal"** **the words will jump off the pages**, and the Holy Spirit will speak just to you, right where you're at NOW. Take time out for Jesus. Make time for Him in your busy schedule, He made time for us, He died for us that we might live and receive daily assistance from Him; we need all the help we can get. This life gets pretty hard sometimes. I can't fathom living without Him. Thank You Jesus for being my constant companion and friend!

## “He speaks through silence”



4/1/15

### John 11:30-34

30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, **they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep.** So they followed her there. 32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, **she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."**

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, **a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.** 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them.

Today is one of those mornings, I keep getting distracted and when I read these verses, I find myself “trying to make something happen on this paper”. In the middle of looking at this verse, and praying as I move around this morning (making my lunch for work, working on a card for someone I am praying for and not having any “words” to enter into it either.....)Ok, I have about 30 minutes left and I have to start getting ready for work.

Do I just quit, sit in my chair, drink some more coffee and be quiet? I pick up a book called “He Speaks To Me”, from Priscilla Shirer. Our women’s bible study has been using this for the last three months, awesome teacher! I half heartedly open the book and read over some of the pages I have underlined, in order to share in the future. I see some of the following and **I am prompted to share this morning**, and then I will go back and sit a while before my day “begins”.

**Word for word from the book:** God is using silence to strengthen your trust in Him and open your ears to spiritual truths. We know that we are becoming spiritually mature when God is silent and, instead of asking why, we humble ourselves before Him and persevere in prayer. It is a mark of maturity to believe that even though God may be silent, He is still in control.

Trust in His silence, God is speaking to you. He wants silence to make you desperate not for a solution to your problem, but for more of Him. God knows when it's time to speak and when it's time to keep silent. IF He has chosen to leave you in the situation you're in, on your knees and listening for Him, there's a reason, although more often than not He doesn't tell us what it is. Sometimes He just watches and waits to see what our next move will be – to see if we will obey the commands of His Word.

(This led me to add a new page on the Salt Shakin Sister-barbarachapmond.com website. For times like this morning, when I really don't have time to work on the website, but want to add some "nuggets"; the new page allows me to make a quick post and then send it out on Face book. I don't spend time on Face book; I only post things from the website, too many other things going on, have to say "no" to some things, ya know what I mean)?

#### **4/3/15 – Good Friday (Great Friday-Thank You Jesus for giving me everlasting life – you live-I live)**

We are going to study these verses some more this morning, here we go: *30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, **they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep.** So they followed her there. 32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, **she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here,** my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, **a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.** 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them.*

I realize these verses are talking about Jesus and the story of Lazarus, but when I study, I sit back and look at the verses and see what "jumps out at me". As you can see from our studies in Chapter 11, I have noted each phrase/verse/word that has done that, and then started seeing what God had for me – **Speak Lord, I am listening.**

This way of studying makes it "**personal for me**". It never ceases to amaze me as I go throughout my day, a part of this study will come to mind and help me to make right choices or give me strength and comfort. Yesterday, I had some things to deal with and when I thought of them, became angry. When those feelings welled up inside of me, I was reminded of Jesus words, when he got angry. I am also reminded of a verse that says "Be ye angry and sin not". So I am anxious to see what we get this morning.

- They **assumed** she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep.
- She **fell at his feet** and said, "Lord, if only you had been here
- A deep **anger welled up within him,** and he was deeply troubled.

Assuming: Circumstances / situations in life can make for miscommunication between friends, foes and family. Have you ever heard the phrase "Never assume anything"? **We need to try to take enough time together all the facts; this takes time and patience.**

I am thinking of work as I journal these thoughts today. We deal with a lot of upset residents in the apartment industry and you can hear one side of the story from the manager and another from the resident. In order for me to help resolve an issue, I oftentimes have to "look into" the matter deeper before finding a solution.

We have to look into the residents file, see what documentation is in there, what ongoing problems/complaints/lease violations have occurred in the past. Basically, we have to take time to look into the matter before "assuming" who is wrong or right in the matter.

**What am I getting from this today? "Think about it, don't jump / move forward to fast".** I am going to need this today, I already know of about 3 or 4 resident issues I need to help my managers with today, so help me with new wisdom today Father. Amen

Fell at his feet: These words come to mind when I look at the word "fell" as we see Mary fall at the feet of Jesus - submission, humility, respect, honor, surrender, commitment, sold out, give up, free to serve whole heartedly.

She fell at His feet then said, "**if only you had been here**". She believed, but didn't totally believe. That sounds weird, right? Isn't there a verse in the bible that says something like; "I believe, help thou my unbelief"? This is where we see, once again, that we "strive" daily to live for Jesus and we do believe, but there is so much we have to deal with, doubt and fear sneaks in all the time!

This takes us "**back to the basics**", the more time we spend with Jesus the more we will believe, simply put. **It's totally up to us.**

Anger welled up within him: Be ye angry and sin not. I have been tested with this a few times this week. Pass or fail? The thing I get out of this today is: it's alright to be angry, just do it with the right attitude and spirit and don't do something stupid that I will later regret.

# Let the “stone in your live” to be rolled away

4/5/15

John 11:35-40 (Easter Sunday – He is Risen – Thank you Jesus)

35 Then **Jesus wept.** 36 The people who were standing nearby said, "**See how much he loved him!**" 37 But some said, "This man healed a blind man. **Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?**" 38 **Jesus was still angry** as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. 39 "**Roll the stone aside,**" Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible." 40 Jesus responded, "**Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?**"

- **Jesus wept.**
- **"See how much he loved him!"**
- **Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"**
- **Jesus was still angry**
- **"Roll the stone aside,"(authority/power)**
- **"Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"**

Did Jesus weep out of compassion only? Wasn't He also weeping from grief because of the doubt and unbelief from all the people standing nearby –( the family members also)? Didn't the people have a condescending and critical attitude about how Jesus had handled the entire Lazarus situation? How does all this relate to our lives today??

I've never seen this before (bless you if you have), I see Jesus weeping because of grief more than just compassion, because the verses speak of Him still being angry. Jesus was sad and angry because of the “unbelief” from everyone. What is it going to take to get us to “turn and believe”? How long and how much will it take for Jesus to get our full attention to listen and obey Him? Am I grieving the Holy Spirit of God? Is my life one that would bring joy or anger and grieve to my Jesus?

Jesus can “speak” a word and Satan has to obey! He is all authority and power! Draw near to Jesus and “receive” your strength and power to make Satan leave you alone! The word gives us power through the Holy Spirit to walk in peace and joy; no reason for us to be walking around in bondage or addictions to sin in our lives. Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. **Hear Jesus speak and tell the “stone in your life to be rolled away”**

This lesson is very personal and the questions presented are tough ones. Can we really be honest and answer them truthfully today? Father helps us to be “real an honest” with you, as you continue to give us revelation of your word, thank you for your grace! Amen

**4/7/15 - Continued**... I sat down this morning with my cup of coffee ready to get into a lesson I am study with our ladies at church. I thought I would glance at my last entry on John first. Today (really for two weeks now) I'm dealing with some "stuff" that I don't know which way I am suppose to go. Some of it is feelings of offense, hurt, anger, pride, "who is right in this matter"? I know, it's NOT about me. When in service for Jesus, it's about "others". I know, I know, I know. This does not change the fact that I am still having fleshly battles though!

Having been transparent and sharing, when I read today's title I saw something I did not see when first studying these verses. This is what I mean when reading the word; it will meet you "**where you're at**". It will speak to our lives in the circumstances we are in. The deal is, "are we open enough to listen to what the Holy Spirit has to say"?

**Hear Jesus speak and tell the "stone in your life to be rolled away"**

**Roll the stone away**..... The stone can be a number of things that are wrong in our lives. Today, I have shared some of my "stones" that I am desperately praying for God to give me deliverance and victory over! Having said all this, I will press forward, I will continue to confess (by name) feelings I am dealing with and believe that God "will change my heart and attitude", (and even other people's hearts), for He knows my heart and He will walk with me through this journey. I pray that in my next quiet time (Journaling with Jesus and John) I will be able to share my victory!

What's your stone? Can you be honest enough with Jesus to remove it? Can you sit still long enough to have time alone with Jesus? Can you press past your feelings long enough to allow the Holy Spirit to change your heart? We have a free will; choices we make make us who we are. **Choose this day weather you live in victory or defeat. Thank you Jesus for GRACE!**

# Are you all bound up?

## John 11:41-48

41 So **they rolled the stone aside**. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." 43 Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 And the dead man came out, **his hands and feet bound in grave clothes**, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them

45 **Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen**. 46 But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. "What are we going to do?" they asked each other. "This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. 48 **If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him**. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation."

- **They rolled the stone aside.**
- "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me.
- Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come.
- **His hands and feet bound in grave clothes.**
- "Unwrap him and let him go!"
- **Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen**
- **If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him.**

**"They" rolled the stone away..** ..We have to trust God to do a work in our lives, but we also "have to do our part" in the process of God making changes in our lives. Sometimes we are required to roll the stones away in our lives *by the power and strength God gives us*. We cannot expect God to touch us with a magic wand and sprinkle us with magic dust, then "poof" everything is better; and all the stones are removed from our lives now, it is not that simple.

We have to be real about the truths we believe and having said this, be careful who and what we listen to. Every preacher and ministry is not always teaching in line with God's Word. If your soul has doubts about something you hear, check it out in the word of God or ask for some Godly counsel. Don't believe "everything you hear". There is a scripture in the bible that tells us to "test the spirits" to be sure they are true. God will give you peace along with truth.

**"Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me.** I am thankful that God does hear our prayers and does answer them. How many times have we heard it said: "Sometimes His answer may be NO". He knows what is best for us, that's when we just have to trust and wait on Him. Waiting- none of us like doing this!

**Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come.** There is POWER in Jesus name! When Jesus speaks, things happen. There is power in the Word, use it against satan. You don't have to memorize and remember everything you read in the bible, that's impossible. But, what is "possible" is to hide God's word on the tablet of your heart. I believe with all my heart, God honors your time and diligence to read the word and make every effort to keep it before your eyes. It's in your heart even if it doesn't come to your mind as often and as easily as you would like; trust God, He is with you, and He will speak to you and remind you of what you need when you need it!

**His hands and feet bound in grave clothes.** Sin in our lives can be like having our hands and feet bound in grave clothes; bondage and addictions will bind us up and keep us from being free to walk in Gods will and grace. Jesus died on the cross to "set us free" from all bondage and sin! Thank you Jesus I am free and free indeed!

**"Unwrap him and let him go!"** Sin and death has NO power over us, once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. We are dead to sin and alive unto God, old things are passed away and behold all things are new. Jesus set us free – He told satan to "LET US GO"! Thank you Jesus!

**Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.** Have you ever heard of strange things happening on the news that caused people "flock" to something that "looked" miraculous? How did you feel about it? Was it real? Was it just for publicity? Why do people run to something like this instead of just "simply believing" in Jesus, because of whom He is and what He did for us on the cross? The real "miracle" is when Jesus comes into our hearts and saves us (gives us life eternal).

You know what, even in our human tendencies, **God shows His grace.** We want to feel or see something in order to "believe in it", while God only wants us to trust Him. Trusting in Him is not something you can "see"- **Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews: 11:6- Without faith it is impossible to please God.**

**If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him.** Satan does not want anyone saved!

# You didn't come up with this on your own

4/8/15

## John 11:49-54

49 Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, "**You don't know what you're talking about!**" 50 You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed."

51 **He did not say this on his own**; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. 52 And not only for that nation, **but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.**

53 So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death. 54 As a result, **Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people** and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and **stayed there with his disciples.**

## Matthew Henry Commentary:

11:49-50 Caiaphas was high priest; **He was not a believer in the Lord Jesus**, in spite of the words which he uttered.

11:51-51 This explains why Caiaphas said what he did. He did not speak on his own authority, that is, he did not make up what He said about Jesus by himself. He did not speak of his own will. Rather, **the message that he uttered was given to him by God, with a deeper message than he intended.** It was a divine prophecy that Jesus would die for the nation of Israel. **It was given to Caiaphas because he was high priest that year. God spoke through him because of the office he held and not because of his own personal righteousness, for he was a sinful man.**

- Caiaphas - "**You don't know what you're talking about!**" **He was not a believer in the Lord Jesus.**
- Caiaphas - **God spoke through him because of the office he held and not because of his own personal righteousness, for he was a sinful man.**
- Caiaphas - **He did not say this on his own; the message that he uttered was given to him by God, with a deeper message than he intended.**
- Jesus **stopped his public ministry among the people**
- Jesus **stayed there with his disciples.**

**Caiaphas** - "You don't know what you're talking about"! He was not a believer in the Lord Jesus. **Caiaphas** - God spoke through him because of the office he held and not because of his own personal righteousness, for he was a sinful man. **Caiaphas** - He did not say this on his own; the message that he uttered was given to him by God, with a deeper message than he intended.

Don't you find it hard to believe that God would speak through a "lost person"? I think we are taught and prone to believe; God does not speak to or hear the sinner. I look at this a little differently than I did years ago.

Don't misunderstand me! I am not saying that God has fellowship with, and carries on a conversation with someone that doesn't even know Him as personal Savior; you have to know Jesus as your personal Savior to have fellowship with Him. What I am saying is, that God can "use" someone that doesn't know Him personally to speak into our lives. They are clueless this has even happened, and you are probably surprised in the matter also.

Have you ever watched a commercial, or been in a work related seminar or watching a movie and all of a sudden you say to yourself: "That would preach" or "That has some scriptural truth to it"? I hope I am getting the point across as to what I am trying to share.

Doesn't God use the funds of those that are rich and don't know Him, to support and fund hundreds of ministries? You can be a very good person, and live a clean and upright life, but this does not give you access to eternal life. There is only ONE WAY to enter into Heaven – through confessing our sins and asking Jesus to come into our hearts and save us. ONE WAY!

**Jesus** stopped his public ministry among the people- **Jesus** stayed there with his disciples. Timing is everything with God and the way the Holy Spirit works in and through our lives. God opens doors and closes doors, even in ministries God has given us. Example: Have you ever served in church as a children's teacher and you had a great passion for doing so? Maybe you served in this capacity for 2 or 3 years; then one day it seems, that your heart changed about this service. Your passion for teaching is gone.

You don't understand why, "it seems" as though you just don't want to do this service anymore and you're not out of sorts with God. Your Christian walk is in line with God's word and you love Him and want to serve Him, but your heart has a new passion now. How does this work? I can't really answer that, but I do know from experience, in my personal life years ago, I loved teaching children then one day it was gone. Now I have a passion for teaching and encouraging women.

There were several years in between serving in children's ministry and starting the women ministry, I did nothing at all. I was attending church, serving Jesus with all my heart, just not working/serving in the church.

Why you say? Well, for me it was a period in my life where God was dealing with me about several things He needed to change and even heal within my heart and attitude. In order for Him to do this, He allowed me to take a break for a season. I was ministered to by others and all the while, God was preparing me for something new in the future. Some of what I am doing this very moment is a result of some of the things that took place in that "quiet season" in my life.

God has a plan and a divine purpose for "everything" that happens in our lives. Be encouraged. Listen and He will speak to you.

# Religion or Salvation – Do you know the difference?

4/13/15

## John 11:55-57

55 It was now almost **time for the Jewish Passover celebration**, and many people from all over the country arrived in Jerusalem several days early so they could go through the **purification ceremony before Passover began**. 56 They kept looking for Jesus, but as they stood around in the Temple, they said to each other, "What do you think? He won't come for Passover, will he?" 57 Meanwhile, the leading priests and Pharisees had publicly ordered that **anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him**.

- **Time for the Jewish Passover celebration**
- **The people were required to go up to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.**
- **Anyone seeing Jesus must report it immediately so they could arrest him.**

### Believers Bible Commentary:

**11:55-56** - The announcement that the Passover of the Jews was near reminds us we are coming to the close of the Lord's public ministry. It was at this very Passover that he was to be crucified. **The people were required to go up to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.**

For instance, if a Jew had touched a dead body, it was necessary for him to go through a certain ritual in order to be cleansed from ceremonial defilement. **This purifying was done through various types of washings and offerings. The sad thing is that the Jewish people were thus seeking to purify themselves, while at the same time planning the death of the Passover Lamb. What a terrible exposure of the wickedness of the heart of man!**

**Thank you Jesus!** Because of what you did for me on the cross, I don't have to go through these religion acts. I can just come to you, talk to you, confess my sins and problems to you and YOU are the one that forgives and heals me. No one else! I am free to serve and worship you because I live in a free country.

It is so sad, that with all that Jesus did for us, people still refuse to accept His grace and "simply" confess their sins and repent and turn their lives over to Him. It's the sin nature that is built in us, that often craves the "acts of righteousness" because it feels good and looks religious and eases our conscience for a short time; there is no self denial or changes made in our actions or lifestyles. If it feels good, do it. Whoever came up with that lie? SATAN

It's easier to go through some religious / ritual acts than to really deny your sinful flesh and DO and OBEY what God really wants us to do. Obedience is better than empty sacrifices. Father help us to be sensitive to your voice and be honest and real when it comes to serving you. Amen