

Title: Reasons Christ Waits
Text: John 11: 1-53
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John 11: 1: Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2: (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) 3: Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

What a petition? Usually, the greatest need is expressed in the shortest petition. “*God be merciful to me a sinner.*” “*Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.*” “*Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.*”

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 might be glorified thereby.

Whatever the Lord does for his people—first to last—it is for this reason—“for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”

John 11: 5: Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. 6: When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Subject: Reasons Christ Waits

Proposition: With our Lord there are no delays—he does all at his predestinated, foreordained time, exactly on time—but our Lord makes it appear to us that he waits—and he does it because he loves his own—he does it that he might bring glory to himself and work good for his child.

SUBMISSION

By waiting the Lord Jesus teaches us to deny ourselves. He teaches us to submit to him.

John 11: 7: Then after that saith he to *his* disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. 8: *His* disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? 9: Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. 10: But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him...16: Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

The disciple knew the Pharisees sought to kill Christ. They lived near Bethany. So they did not want to go back there. But like as Christ laid down his life before the Father for his people, so in some measure, Christ will cause his people to deny ourselves, submitting to Christ, trusting Christ to work his will.

Bethany was near Jerusalem. It is where the Pharisee’s lived who wanted to kill Christ. They had just come from there when the Pharisees took up stones to stone the Lord. But knowing he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, knowing many would believe on his name and knowing this would infuriate the Jews—Christ would go forth in obedience and submission to God the Father. After the Lord raised Lazarus and many believed on him, it set in motion his crucifixion.

John 11: 46: But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. 47: Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. 48: If we let him thus alone, all *men* will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. 49: And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, 50: Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. 51: And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; 52: And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the

children of God that were scattered abroad. 53: Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

Even though our Lord knew raising Lazarus would result in the Jews seeking his death, he waited until plenty of Jews were at Lazarus' tomb to witness the Lord raise Lazarus from death. He waited that they might tell the Pharisees. Christ was laying down his life to fulfill the Father's will.

Our Savior's entire life was one of doing the will of the Father. Christ coming down from glory and taking flesh was Christ laying down his life. Christ going to the cross was the Son of God laying down his life to fulfill the will of God his Father to save his people from our sins and declare God's righteousness. Likewise, here, he was doing God's will while it was day. Therefore he had no fear of the Jews.

The Lord brings us into difficulties and he waits. He is teaching his child to deny ourselves, take up our cross, submit to his will, and wait on Christ to work in his time.

Mark 8:35: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Thomas got the lesson, "*Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*" (Jn 11: 16).

FAITH

By waiting the Lord makes us believe his word. He makes us behold that Christ is indeed our Life—the Resurrection and the Life.

John 14: Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. 15: And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. [He said the same to Martha and Mary]—17: Then when Jesus came, he found that he had *lain* in the grave four days already....20: Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat *still* in the house. 21: Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 22: But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee. 23: Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24: Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25: Jesus said unto her, I am...the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? 27: She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world....32: Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 33: When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, 34: And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. 35: Jesus wept. 36: Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! 37: And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? 38: Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. 39: Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days. 40: Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest BELIEVE thou shouldest see the glory of God? [may we remember those words in every trial and difficulty] 41: Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42: And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

Christ waited in order that the Lord might teach those he loved to believe his word. That he might teach us Christ is the resurrection and the life. Christ in you is the Life of the new man—"Christ in you the hope of glory." Faith is the gift of God—by grace—and so is the maintaining of our faith and the growing of our faith. By making us wait in his time, the Lord strengthens our faith to believe he is our Life. He makes us know he is our Life more.

God promised Isaac children more than the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore. But Rebekah was barren. Isaac and Rebekah waited. In the meantime, Isaac's brother Ishmael raised up twelve sons who were princes. But God made Isaac and Rebekah wait 20 years before God raised up life in Rebekah's womb. Yet, God's blessing was upon Isaac, Rebekah and Jacob, not Ishmael or any of his sons. The Lord waited to teach Isaac and Rebekah to believe God's word, that he alone is the life.

Christ's waiting in the midst of trial is to teach each of us to believe the word of God that Christ is our Resurrection and our Life.

THE GLORY OF GOD

By waiting the Lord makes us behold his glory.

John 11: 40: Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe thou shouldest see THE GLORY OF GOD?...43: And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44: And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

By waiting Christ makes us behold his glory. Christ entered covenant from the foundation of the world to come forth and redeem his people. But he waited until the fulness of time.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Before the world was made God foreordained each of his elect to be born-again of his holy Spirit—and in that precise time—he crosses our path with the gospel...

Galatians 4: 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

It the power of Christ's redeeming blood—having justified his people—the power of Christ our Life who speaks to his child and gives us life, saying, "Lazarus, come forth!" He said,

John 5:21:...as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

So it is throughout the life of faith. Christ renews our inner man continually. He speaks the words of life through his gospel making us behold his glory. So it will be when our bodies die. Christ our Life shall speak our name and say, "Come forth!" and our spirit shall live with the Lord immediately. When Christ returns, Christ shall raise our bodies from the grave and make them like his glorious body. Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. Through faith he makes us behold his glory. He promises, "*He that hath the Son, hath life. He that lives and believes in Christ shall never die.*" Christ waits until we have no strength that he shows us his glory. He makes us know that it was Christ alone who saved us in every situation and that Christ is our Salvation eternally!

2 Corinthians 4: 11...that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh...16...*though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

2 Cor 12: 10: [So *that we say with Paul*] ...when I am weak, then am I strong.

Isaiah 40: 30: Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

GOOD FOR ALL HIS PEOPLE

By waiting Christ not only blesses the one in need but our Lord blesses all his people. Our Lord waited until many Jews were there. And when he raised Lazarus, we read,

John 11: 45: Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

Christ waits that he might profit each of his people. Christ knows where his sheep are who the Lord will quicken by his word. We wait in trials for the Lord to bring us through them that Christ might profit each of our brethren involved. Christ shall do so!

Brethren, the life of the believer is one of waiting on the Lord. So remember this:

By the things we suffer, Christ is teaching us to deny ourselves, lay down our life to his will, even as Christ did for his people.

Also, Christ is teaching us to believe his word. He is our Life. Christ gives Life by his word—“thou hast the words of eternal life.”

Furthermore, our Lord waits to show us his glory. Christ alone is the Power of God unto salvation. He is the Resurrection and the Life. Christ is our Righteousness. He is our All! Our Lord said, *“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe thou shouldst see THE GLORY OF GOD?”*

In addition, Christ is waiting that he might abundantly bless each and every one of his people.

There are other reasons but Christ waits because he loves his people. He will keep us resting in him alone. The children of Israel looked to Egypt instead of waiting on the Lord. He said,

Isaiah 30:18: And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. 19: For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Amen!