

WHEN JESUS DOESN'T ANSWER

John 11:1-44

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INTRODUCTION

PAUL & SILAS following Jesus

told to go to Europe, Philippi, to start church

prayed for help and protection

arrested and thrown into jail!

Why didn't Jesus answer their prayers?

JOB prayed for family every day

hedge of protection around children

one day all killed - no explanation from God!

OUR FAMILY - Glory

Seem distant, unhearing, uncaring

READ JOHN 11:1-6 (exposit)

PROBLEM

Bad things happen, Jesus doesn't help, change

-but they helped Jesus - money, housing, etc

-not heal Lazarus before despite long illness

close, stayed at their house, healed others

healed those He didn't know, why not Lazarus?

-not heal Lazarus when told he was much worse

-not even bother coming until too late

-just send word that Lazarus not die, be all right

but already dead when got the word

SOLUTION

1. NOT because Jesus doesn't know

OMNISCIENT - knows everything
-knew when Lazarus died

READ JOHN 11:14 (exosit)

2. NOT because Jesus doesn't love, care

-says repeatedly Jesus loved him/them
close friends, only 'home' Jesus knew

READ JOHN 11:3, 5, 36 (exosit)

we assume if love someone will do anything to help them - Jesus doesn't help, think doesn't care

3. NOT because Jesus unable

SOVEREIGN

-M& M say He is able, He's done it for strangers before

4. BUT because He has a greater plan

-for our growth

stretch our faith, opportunity to trust

M&M "Jesus, help my faith grow" - so this happens

Job Abraham Paul & Silas

My familyyou....

PETER in boat OK, then wants to walk on water

why? Storm!!!

Without storm wouldn't get out of boat

storms stretch our faith,

-for His glory

as we see Him provide or help us through
as others see Him provide for us or help us through it

EXAMPLE: Mary & Martha

said: "Use us for your glory any way you want"

- so He did

Job glorifies God by faith, example, still to us today
US same, but can't see it yet

others: hindsight so easier to see when over
us now: don't see whole picture yet!

KEY TO VICTORY

TRUST, BELIEVE no explanation, reason late, just faith, trust

Jesus to Disciples [theological] - believe in me

READ JOHN 11:7-16 (exosit)

'asleep' - so travel 2 days to wake someone up?

no explanation to disciples who wonder why not heal
just expected them to trust Him!

Jesus to Martha [rational] - believe

READ JOHN 11:17-27 (exosit)

Theological discussion - dead, one day arise ...

"do you believe?" v 26

"Yes" she says, no more explanation

"then just trust Me"

Jesus to Mary [emotional] - believe in me

READ JOHN 11:28-37 (exosit)

"if you...." = WHY question (v 32)

Loves, cares - cries with her

but no explanation

CHILD to parent

trust without explanation

sometimes parent can't explain,

child not understand
child not agree
take pretty object from child (knife)
let someone hurt them (doctor, shot)

ALL BASED ON TRUST

WHY should we trust Him What right He have to ask of us?

NOT based on reasons, proof

BUT based on Who & What Jesus is (proven by **cross** for us)

EXAMPLE OF TRUST

HANANNIAH, AZARIAH, MISHAEL

"always able" "don't know if willing"

RESULTS

READ JOHN 11:38-44 (exosit)

Stone away - smell!!!

4 days soul gone for sure

why Jesus waited to come!

JOHN 11:40 (exosit)

Belief/faith not conditional for doing of the miracle

but for seeing God's glory in it

Believe = see God in it

"Lazarus, come forth" = or all in graveyard come out!

COME OUT! at death body to grave

soul, spirit right to heaven

"today you will be with Me in paradise!"

rapture - bodies resurrected, returned to us

GROWTH of Mary, Martha, Lazarus through this

GLORY

-believers worship, Mary Martha Lazarus worship

-unbelievers see this about Jesus, too

still reject
forced to act to get rid of Jesus before Passover
too many now believing, following
fulfill prophecy for Jesus to die when Pas Lamb killed!

CONCLUSION

MARY & MARTHA grew spiritually, closer to Jesus
PAUL & SILAS praise, earthquake, stay, jailer believes, church
JOB rewarded, blessed, double all lost
ME & YOU? Same -= but in future!
Apply to current situations ...

NOW: WE TRUST!
Silent prayer
He's never late...