

Tears and Triumph

J o h n 1 1 : 1 - 5 7

Pastor Matt Jones, Del Rey Church, March 31, 2019

I. Our Setting Today

II. Our Scripture Teaches

- A. Disease Comes (John 11:1-10)
- B. Death Calls (John 11:11-16)
- C. Deity Cares (John 11:17-36)
- D. Death Conquered (John 11:37-44)
- E. Duty Continues (John 11:45-57)

III. Our Sister and the Text

- A. Grace and Faith
- B. Glorifying the Father
- C. Going Forward

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. On Sunday, we studied John 11, which opens with describing Jesus' friends: Mary, Martha and Lazarus. The scene captures a real intimate friendship they enjoyed with Jesus. Thinking of your own walk with Jesus, how do you personally experience friendship with Him and also loving relationships with His fellow friends in the body of Christ? (As you reflect on this and answer, see what John 15:13-17 says about friendship with Jesus and His friends).
2. In the above questions, we reflected on friendship with Jesus. In John 11, we see Jesus teaching His friends about His divine identity and power over death. With this in mind, read Luke 12:4 and discuss how it ties friendship with Jesus to how we—as His disciples—face death. Further, read Luke 12:5-7 and discuss what it says about fear, faith and the value of being a chosen friend of Jesus. How does this comfort you? How does it move you to share the gospel?
3. In the face of the discomfort of disease and suffering unto death, in John 11 we are presented with a greater purpose in our pain and loss, which is the glory of God (see John 11:4). Look up together Romans 8:18-25 and 28-39. Now discuss what these verses teach us about making sense of suffering pain in this life as Christians. Are you facing sickness, loss, grief or fear of loss? Share.
4. In thinking about how we process pain as imperfect humans, it is important to see in John 11:33 and 35 how Jesus—the perfect human—experienced the loss of a loved one. Even though He knew his friend would rise up by His power, Jesus still wept. How does seeing Jesus grieve and weep inform our experiences with loss? What did Jesus teach His disciples about mourning in Matthew 5:4? Do you wrestle with balancing sadness and faith ever? If so, share. If not, why might that be? How does the gospel of Jesus speak to us in hard times?
5. From the last question we really saw that it is biblically okay to cry in times of loss and especially in the face of death. That said, the way we grieve is supposed to be different from the way the world does (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13 and 18). Discuss how our comfort and coping is different from the world. Discuss the things the world turns to for comfort and how those can be temptations for us.
6. We've talked about facing loss/death and also our comfort/hope in Jesus as His personal friends/followers. That said, what are some other themes that surface in John 11? How does the chapter comfort and confront you? How do you see yourself as a disciple being challenged by Jesus in John 11 to walk after Him more fully in repentance, faith and mission?
7. Having discussed John 11, spend some time praying through what you've shared and making it personal. Are there people in your life in need of prayer to experience Jesus' saving grace, friendship, power, perfect mourning and mercy? Pray for them and one another, sharing and bearing your burdens before God.