

In our reading today we can be excused for feeling confused by Jesus' actions. Jesus is told that His friend, Lazarus is seriously ill. This same Lazarus is brother to Mary and Martha, also friends of Jesus, and yet Jesus doesn't drop what He is doing and rush to his sick friend's side, Jesus almost dismisses the news in a casual, even callous way.

This is not the Jesus we expect and clearly the disciples were discombobulated by His action, or lack thereof. Jesus, in fairness, does explain why He is doing what He does but, once again, despite the explanation, the disciples just don't 'get it'.

We, with the benefit of hindsight, and the Gospel of John, know that it all turns out 'alright', that is if we can put aside the pain and grief of loss and focus on the resurrection.

Personally, despite the outcome, I still feel for Mary and Martha in those days before Jesus came and restored Lazarus to them.

**"How do you see this event as a whole? At the risk of sounding blasphemous, how else could Jesus have acted?"**

#### **Read John 11:1-16**

1. What, had you been a disciple at that time, would you understand Jesus to mean where He said; *"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*
2. Why [verse 6] would Jesus wait a further two days? How does that show His love for Mary, Martha and Lazarus?

3. Read verse 8 again. The disciples obviously had concerns for the safety of Jesus and, no doubt their own by going back to Judea. What do we fear which affects how we do, or don't do, things for our faith?
4. Verses 9 and 10 are a mini parable. What do you understand it to mean [ignore the obvious as too easy]?
5. Why does Jesus say; 'fallen asleep' instead of saying clearly; 'Lazarus has died'? Is it any wonder that the disciples get confused?
6. What does Jesus mean by; 'for your sake I am glad I was not there'? Why?
7. Verse 15 'so that you may believe'. Believe what? How would the disciples have understood that do you think?
8. One has to love the disciples, Peter and Thomas are my favourites because they say the things that we would all think if we were in their shoes. Verse 16 is another of those examples; *"Let us also go, that we may die with him."* Not very encouraging, what would you have said instead?
9. Go through the reading again, try using different voices for the spoken parts. What, if anything, do you 'hear' differently?
10. How would you feel as Mary, or Martha [or Lazarus] whilst waiting for Jesus' response to your message?
11. What part of this passage strikes you as most important?

### **Prayer Points**

Pray for the Christian summer camps happening all over the UK, and especially for Satellites where our Beulah youth will be attending. Pray for the teams and preparations.

Please pray also for the local Baptist churches meeting in the cluster; and intercede for local congregations trying to revitalise their outreach and become more effective witnesses in their communities.

Pray for people recently bereaved, as they proceed through their grief journey.

### **Sermon Notes**

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



## **BIBLE STUDY**

July 19<sup>th</sup> 2026

### **The Death of Lazarus**

**John 11:1-16**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus progressively reveals His divine identity while confronting deep unbelief. He is presented as the light who exposes spiritual darkness, showing that true blindness is not physical but a refusal to recognise truth. As the Good Shepherd, He embodies sacrificial love, intimate care, and secure belonging for His people. This part of the gospel also emphasises faith as trust in His person rather than mere signs. These passages highlight themes of revelation, belief versus rejection, abundant life, and the growing tension between divine truth and human resistance.