



“Is Jesus’ Timing Too Slow?”

Sermon Scriptures: John 11:1-44

Sermon Text: John 11:6, 7

We live in a world of instant fixes, quick decisions, and immediate results. No one wants to wait or be patient. We are accustomed to having what we want and when we want it. We even expect God to answer our prayers before we say Amen. With the mixed emotions of this holiday season, as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus, there are those who feel that Jesus is insensitive to their needs. They raise the question, “Is Jesus moving too slow?”

I have selected the writings of John to respond to these feelings we may sometimes have—when it seems THE LORD IS TAKING TOO MUCH TIME. The message God wishes for us to learn is the ancient story of the miracle, which Jesus performed when He raised Lazarus from the dead. We are all familiar with the chain of events in which we find Mary and Martha calling upon Jesus to come and heal their brother and Jesus’ good friend Lazarus.

Jesus received their message before Lazarus passed, but decided to remain where He was for two more days. When He decided to go to Bethany, Lazarus had been buried for four days and Martha accused Jesus of being too slow; of taking His own good time hence her brother died. They even emphasized to Jesus that “Lazarus was a man Jesus loved,” and yet He let him die!!!

It is a known fact that we all have felt, at one time or another, that Jesus was just moving too slowly on our requests or needs. As African-Americans, we have cried for equality and justice for over 200 years. We prayed, begged, walked, and marched but seemingly, the Lord just takes too much time in His response to our pleas. We should take a moment to try to understand why Jesus does what He does and appreciate His timetable. Jesus did not respond immediately because He saw that His disciples’ faith was not where it ought to have been. He knew that they felt that Jesus’ power ended at the sick bed and not the graveyard. Jesus wanted to increase their faith. He needed for Lazarus to die because His Father would get the glory out of his death.

Never forget that God has a way of waiting until we give up before He shows up. When He shows up, the time is perfect but not necessarily when we want Him or feel we need Him. The Bible says Martha looked down the road, and met Him part of the way. This simple gesture teaches us that we must continue to “look down the road” for Jesus and meet Him “part of the way.” Jesus assured them that everything would be alright. He assures us that we all must have “even now faith.” When life and its perplexities seem to be overwhelming:

1. Call on Jesus
2. Know that Jesus’ timing is impeccable
3. Continue to seek Jesus
4. Meet Him part of the way
5. Trust Him without doubt

When we do this, Jesus will be on time and say what He said to Mary and Martha, “Show Me where he is.” (verse 33). In other words, show me the challenge you face and I will resolve it.

During this season, and into the New Year, keep seeking God’s divine guidance for whatever you may need. Never doubt that He has not abandoned. Let your faith assure you that HE IS AN ON-TIME GOD. Be blessed with peace during this sacred season

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