**INTRODUCTION:**

Chapter 10:31-42 The Jewish leaders picked up stones to kill Jesus (10:31), but Jesus wanted to know which of the good works He showed them from His Father that they wanted to stone Him for (10:32). They said that it wasn’t for the good works, but for blasphemy. He was trying to make Himself God (10:33). Jesus took them to the Law and showed them where the message of God came that “you are gods” (10:34) — (Ps.82:6 I called you all gods, sons of the Most High), so the scripture can’t be changed or broken (10:35). So Jesus asks about the One whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, “you’re blaspheming because I said I'm the Son of God?” (10:36). So, Jesus puts it to them that if He doesn’t do the works of His Father, don’t believe Him (10:37). But, if He do the works, and they don’t believe Him, believe the works, so that they may come to know and believe the Father is working in Him and He’s in the Father (10:38). The Jews tried to arrest Jesus, but He escaped out of their hands (10:39) and went beyond the Jordan to the place where John the Baptist had first baptize people. And this is where He stayed (10:40). Many people began to come to that place and said John did no miracle, but all the things he said concerning Jesus was true (10:41). And many people at that place believed in Him; came to the decision that He was the Messiah (10:42).

**LESSON:**

I. JESUS SUMMONED  

11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. This story begins to tell us that Lazarus was sick. He lived in the town of Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha.

11:2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)— As we read further into 12:1-3 we will find out that this Mary was Lazarus’ sister. Jesus had already raised him from the dead. Jesus is back at their house and Martha is serving supper, Lazarus is at the table with Jesus, and Mary anoints the Lord’s feet with an expensive ointment called spikenard and then wipes His feet with her hair.

11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. They were all close friends of Jesus, therefore, word had been sent by the sisters that the one Jesus loved was sick.

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. Upon hearing this news, Jesus says "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be honored through it." This might have seemed strange to everyone, but truly a miracle was about to take place. There were seven purposes we can see in this story for Lazarus’ sickness. The first purpose was to glorify God and proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

III. JESUS DELAYED  

11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. Each member of the family is mentioned personally. Jesus loved the family which leads to the second purpose of Lazarus’ sickness: to show Jesus’ great love.

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11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Jesus did not go readily to see Lazarus. He waits two days before He and His disciples depart toward Bethany. Jesus was nowhere near Lazarus and the sisters. The third purpose of Lazarus’s sickness was to show the necessity for waiting upon God in great crises.

Can we truly wait on God?
- Mary and Martha sent for Jesus (11:3).
- Jesus remained in the place He was for two days (11:6).

The point is this: Martha and Mary were learning to wait upon God throughout the whole experience. It had been three days since Jesus had received the news of Lazarus’ sickness. We will learn that Lazarus died and had been buried in the grave for four days.

11:7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. Jesus determines the time; "Let’s go into Judea again." The time had come for them to see who He truly is.

11:8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?— The disciples knew what had occurred the last time Jesus was in Judea, for they were about to stone Him for His sayings. So, they’re pretty much trying to warn Jesus, saying “You going again?” The disciples protested Jesus’ return there because of the threat to His life. Bethany is north of Judea. But Jesus alludes to the fact that His time on the earth is a final period of time and it cannot be changed. He was to go and do what is right, regardless of the danger. The fourth purpose of Lazarus’ sickness was to teach the need to grasp opportunity (11:8-10).

11:9 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. Jesus gives the scenario of time—12 hours in a day. Therefore, if a man walks in the daytime, he walks without stumbling because he sees the light of the sun. A person who walks in the light of God’s Will won’t stumble. He has to go and do your work while it is day.

11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. But, if a man walks at night, he stumbles because he lacks light. So, a person walking in the night with no light will stumble. He was to go and do what is right lest the day pass and the opportunity be lost.

11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. After Jesus said what He had to say, He tells the disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps." ‘Never mind me; let’s go see about our friend, I need to wake him.’ The fifth purpose of Lazarus’ sickness was to show Jesus’ great power over death. Jesus calls every believer His friend, therefore, there is supposed to be a sweet fellowship between all believers!

11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Well, the disciples thought Lazarus was physically asleep and assumed that sleep was the best thing for his illness and he will recover.

11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. While Jesus speaks about Lazarus’ death, the disciples thought Jesus was referring to literal rest and that Lazarus was sleeping.

11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. Since the disciples didn’t get it, Jesus said http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html
PLAINLY that Lazarus was dead. Wow! That probably shocked them!

II. JESUS DETERMINED JOHN 11:15-16

11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. For the sake of the disciples, Jesus tells them that He’s glad that He wasn’t there when Lazarus died. Why? Because when He raises Lazarus from the dead, they will be astonished and believe. The sixth purpose of Lazarus’ sickness was to help strengthen the disciples’ belief.

11:16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. Thomas, called Didymus (Gr "twin"), encourages the disciples to go with Jesus, that they may die with Him. The outlook for safety in Judea is dim and Thomas feels that Jesus will be killed, and as a result they will be killed as well. The seventh purpose of Lazarus’ sickness was to stir the disciples’ courage and loyalty. Thomas was known as a doubting man, but he took the lead here by showing great courage and loyalty to Jesus which should be demonstrated by every believer (11:15-16).

SUMMARY:

This story begins to tell us that Lazarus was sick. He lived in the town of Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha. This was the Mary who had anointed the Lord’s feet with ointment and wiped them with her hair. They were all close friends of Jesus, therefore, word had been sent by the sisters that the one Jesus loved was sick. Upon hearing this news, Jesus says "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified through it." This might have seemed strange to everyone, but truly a miracle was about to take place. There were seven purposes we can see in this story for Lazarus’ sickness (11: 1-4).

Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. He heard of Lazarus’ sickness, but delayed going to see him for two days. After the 2 days Jesus told His disciples to get ready to go. The disciples protested Jesus’ return to Judea because of the threat to His life. The last time He was there they tried to stone Him. Bethany is north of Judea. But Jesus alludes to the fact that His time on the earth is a final period of time and it cannot be changed. A person who walks in the light of God’s Will cannot be harmed, but the person who walks with no light will stumble. After Jesus said what He had to said, He tells them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep and I'm going because I must wake him." Well, the disciples thought Lazarus was asleep physically and assumed that sleep was the best thing for his illness for him to recover. But Jesus plainly said that Lazarus was dead (11:8-14).

For the sake of the disciples, Jesus tells them that He’s glad that He wasn’t there when Lazarus died. Why? Because when He raises Lazarus from the dead, they will be astonished and believe. Thomas, called Didymus (Gr "twin"), encourages the disciples to go with Jesus, that they may die with Him. The outlook for safety in Judea is dim and Thomas feels that Jesus will be killed, and as a result they will be killed as well. Thomas was known as a doubting man, but he took the lead here by showing great courage and loyalty to Jesus which should be demonstrated by every believer (11:15-16).