

# John 11

The Jews keep making the excuse that they don't believe Jesus because he is just a deceiver, in it for himself.

And Jesus has repeatedly exposed the fallacies in their arguments.

But they don't seem to hear.

So in chapter 10 he laid it out again real plain.

He talked about the difference between how a shepherd relates to the sheep, and how a thief and robber relates to them.

They have very different purposes, and that is clearly manifest in their actions.

A thief is coming to steal and kill and destroy.

And in order to do that, he has to climb up some other way, because he won't be allowed entrance through the door.

But the shepherd enters through the door into the sheepfold, and his sheep hear his voice, and they follow him.

They won't follow a stranger.

And so the Jews should be able to see what is going on here.

How the sheep are hearing Jesus's voice. He knows them, and they know him.

And they follow his word.

It is clear that he hasn't come to destroy.

He's come for the reason that a shepherd comes.

That they might have life, and have it more abundantly.

But Jesus anticipated that the Jews would dispute this. That they'd say he hadn't entered through the door.

Because they think of themselves as the porters, and he didn't go through them. They've been at odds with him.

But Jesus explained that he doesn't have to go through them.

Because he isn't just the shepherd

He's also the door of the fold.

He's a fundamental part of the fold itself. They can't prevent him. He doesn't have to get their approval.

The reason that they are at odds with him, though they are in a position where they should be acting as porters,

is because as porters, as undershepherds, they are just hirelings who don't care for the flock.

They don't protect them. They don't care about them. They aren't there because this is God's flock, and they love God, and want his flock to be cared for.

They are just there for the material benefits that it brings them.

They are hirelings, only worried about their hire.

And so they haven't cared for the sheep. They haven't protected them from wolves.

They've allowed the sheep to be scattered.

And they actually want it to stay that way. That's what they are used to.

They've joined in with the thieves.

And so now when the shepherd comes along, and the flock is gathering together unto him, they are upset. They don't like it.

They aren't looking out for the welfare of the flock. but he is.

They are looking out for their own welfare.

But he's not looking out for their welfare. He's not looking out for their physical welfare so much, but their spiritual welfare. That's what's really important.

That's why they are at odds with him.

But unlike them, he is a good shepherd, who will even lay down his life for the sheep.

So that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.

That's why his Father has sent him, and so he's given him that commandment, he has that power, and he will lay down his life, and take it again.

And through that the blood will be sprinkled on the door, that they might enter in, and be saved.

Just as in the Passover.

And that they might then go in and out, and find pasture.

Just as God then led Israel out of Egypt unto their promised inheritance.

And so the good shepherd, who was the very door of the fold, would also become a lamb, one of his own, to be slain. That the sheep might have life, and abundant life, full of grace and truth.

So Jesus told them all of this, yet they still wouldn't believe him. Still wouldn't hear his word.

They yet again wanted to ask him if he was the Christ. "Don't make us to doubt."

Even though in the previous chapter he'd just answered that several times.

And so he told them again. But he told them, "look, you're not going to hear me. You're not going to believe. Because you're not of my sheep. You're of a different fold. You belong to a different master."

And so they wanted to stone them.

And he asked why, for what work that he'd done, they were stoning him for.

And they didn't have an answer for that. He hadn't done any evil work. Anything like a robber.

All they could do was try to say that he was blaspheming.

So again he pointed to his works, and encouraged them to believe just based on them, if they wouldn't believe him, and hear his word.

But again they refused.

Yet we saw when he then fled up beyond Jordan, that many were willing to believe just on the word, without miracles.

**John 10:40** [he left] And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

42 And many believed on him there.

## Verse 1-2

**John 11:1** Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

Hasn't told us about this event yet.

But this gospel is written later, to people who may already be familiar with many of these events.

He's fled up and east, to the other side of Jordan.

But they are in Bethany, down in Judea near Jerusalem.

## Verse 3

**John 11:3** Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

But they let him know anyway, in hopes that he might come and heal him. Knowing how close he was to Lazarus and them.

## Verse 4

**John 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.

Similar to what he said about the blind man. "that the works of God should be made manifest." A particular purpose for this happening, in God's plan.

For God's glory, and specifically, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Jesus hasn't sought glory, he's sought the glory of the Father, but this is going to be to his glory.

## Verse 5-6

**John 11:5** Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

He did love this man, this family.

And yet he doesn't take action.

How will he be glorified if he doesn't go and heal this man?

## Verse 7-8

**John 11:7** Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

## Verse 9-10

**John 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.

10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Jesus told them that there was a work there, that his Father had given him to do, that he might be glorified.

So what are they so worried about?

What he says is similar to what he said before when he healed the blind man:

**John 9:4** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is **day**: the **night** cometh, when no man can work.

5 As long as I am in the **world**, I am **the light of the world**.

So they should already understand this.

He is given these works by the Father.

So they shouldn't be concerned.

He is the light of the world, so how can he stumble, as if he were in darkness.

"If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world."

"But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him."

A man doesn't glow in the dark. Not bioluminescent.

He doesn't have his own light within himself.

But Jesus does.

So while he is here, while he is the light, he will do these things.

## Verse 11-13

**John 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.

12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

They said, "If he's asleep there's no need to go."

But Jesus was talking about his death.

Called it sleep. Why sleep?

When do you sleep?

But he is the light of the world. While he is here it is day.

Lazarus shouldn't be sleeping. So he's going to go wake him up.

The life was the light of men.

## Verse 14-15

**John 11:14** Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

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.

This is interesting.  
Jesus is saying that he is glad that somebody has died,  
so that he can go there and do this work,  
and that as a result, they may believe.

Now first, don't they already believe?

And shouldn't they just believe on his word?

But God has given him these works.  
not to convince others,  
but so those that follow him might understand his glory.

And it is clear that there are some things they don't understand. Though he's told them.  
They fear for his life. When he *is* the life. When he's said that no man can take it from him.

They are thinking in natural terms, not supernatural.  
Maybe because he fled.

They're forgetting this, so he wants to drive it home.  
That's important to for them understand, because he's just about to lay it down and take it again.

## Verse 16

**John 11:16** Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

They are ready to die.  
Didn't they hear what he just said?

## Verse 17

**John 11:17** Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

## Verse 18-19

**John 11:18** Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:  
19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

## Verse 20

**John 11:20** Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

They feel differently in regard to this event.  
Martha has hope still, Mary doesn't.  
That's why Jesus needed to do this work that they might believe.  
They believed in Jesus. But they didn't fully understand his power to resurrect the dead.

They were so used to thinking differently.

## Verse 21-22

**John 11:21** Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

## Verse 23-27

**John 11:23** Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

“I am the resurrection.” He said before that the Father has given to the Son to have life in himself.

That as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them, even so the Son..

As John said from the beginning, “in the Word was life, and the life was the light of men.”

He’s just reminded them of how he is the light.

He has shown them that he is the Word, he has told them he is the light, and now he’s going to demonstrate that he is the life as well.

He is the resurrection. He is the one who will resurrect, and he is the life that is given to those who are resurrected.

And so all that are in the graves will hear his voice.

And those that believe in him, though they were dead, yet shall they live.

And so those that live and believe in him will not die.

They will not go down into the pit, into hell.

They will remain in his life, with him, in heaven.

He asks Martha if she believes this. That those that were already dead, if they believe in him, will still live.

And she says yes, She believes that. Because she believes that he is the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

He is the anointed One, sent of God, as the OT promised.

And so as the Son of God, all things, including the resurrection, are committed unto him.

She knows that the Father loves the Son, and have given all things into his hand, so that whatsoever he will ask of God, God will do it.

He is the Word, the Light, of Life.

## Verse 28-32

**John 11:28** And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Same thing Martha said. Except she stops there.

She doesn't look at Jesus's visit as a ray of hope.

## Verse 33-35

**John 11:33** When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

Jesus is very moved by the sorrow that this event has caused.

Perhaps also to see how many do not understand.

## Verse 36-37

**John 11:36** Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

People are questioning why he waited.

## Verse 38-40

**John 11:38** Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

He's come to do something, that God, the Son of God, might be glorified.

Didn't she believe that he could do this?

But now she is hesitant.

Again we see why Jesus needed to do this work, that they might believe.

They have a limit on their belief, a brake on it.

But he wants them to have it abundantly. Grace for grace. Fullness.

## Verse 41-42

**John 11:41** Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

What else should we expect? Jesus is doing a miracle by the word.

And he takes it a step further. he does something he hasn't done before.

He specifically addresses his Father, and speaks to him.

So that they may believe that he has sent him.

What he's saying is, this miracle wouldn't be complete, it wouldn't produce that belief, without his word.

## Verse 43-45

**John 11:43** And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

And so it had the desired effect.

"seen him do". Saw him do what?

He cried with a loud voice. And those that were in the graves heard his voice, and came forth.

They believed he was indeed the Son of God, the resurrection and the life.

## Verse 46

**John 11:46** But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

We don't know the motives.

Some of them may have been convinced and were trying to change the Pharisee's minds.

But that was probably dangerous. So it is likely that these people were tattle-tales, letting the Pharisees know that Jesus was nearby, and that he was "blaspheming" again, and that they'd have to deal with the resurrection bit, because it was convincing many people.



## Verse 47-48

**John 11:47** Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

They are still focused on the miracles.  
They think that is the reason that people are believing.  
And Jesus did say that he would be glorified by it.  
But ultimately the deciding factor isn't the miracles.

But they think if he continues doing miracles all men will believe on him.  
And if that happens, they say that the Romans will come and take away their place and nation.

So they are still worried about the physical kingdom. Not the kingdom of God.

But their concern is irrational.  
They are implying that Jesus would challenge the Romans. He's after the physical kingdom.  
But that contradicts what he has been doing.  
He's refused to commit himself to them.  
He's refused to challenge the Roman authorities when they've tried to get him to.

They are saying that he is going to end up in a confrontation with the Romans, and he's going to drag all of them down with him.  
Not only is that contrary to what he has said his mission is at this point,  
but why are they so sure he would lose?  
All these miracles.  
He could raise his army from the dead.

As he said, no man is taking his life from him.

That's not what he's after now, and if he was nobody could stop him.

But to acknowledge that, would be to acknowledge that he is indeed the Son of God.

They weren't willing to believe even though one rose from the dead.

**Luke 16:13** No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.  
14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

Hirelings. Concerned only about this life. Material wealth.

15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

But Jesus is concerned about spiritual things.

16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Now the kingdom of God is being preached, not the kingdom of Israel.

17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

So something huge is happening here.

18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

They can't get out from under the law, without breaking the covenant.  
But there is a way. One party can die.

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

What you have in this life doesn't do you any good in eternity.  
Because there's not second chance. Once you are damned, you're damned.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

And so the Jews were not persuaded when Lazarus did indeed rise from the dead.

So they were still only worried about the kingdom.

## Verse 49-52

**John 11:49** And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

other sheep not of this fold

## Verse 53-7

**John 11:53** Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

54 Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.