

## Gamma – Gospel of John

Book	Gospel of John
Topic	Jesus Is The resurrection and the life
Reference	John 11
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This is like the final year of his ministry, just before he goes onto the third Passover into Jerusalem and the final stretch.

### **A. DELAYS DO NOT MEAN ABANDONMENT**

John 11:1-2 (ESV) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill

If you look very carefully in the Book of John, this episode of Mary wiping Jesus's feet with her hair actually occurs in chapter 12. So, it is not really in chronological order and so it is just telling you what's happening here. So John arranges his passages according to the seven signs. He wants to show us the seven sign and the final sign is the resurrection.

John 11:3-4 (ESV) So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

John 11:5-7 (ESV) Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

*Why did Jesus stay two days longer?*

Sometimes you might find that because God loves you, you might get a tougher time and that's a very-very important lesson for us to learn that because God loves you bad stuff happens, delays happens and you are always wondering that we have a one dimensional attitude towards faith where if I am faithful to God, God will then reward me, I will do well in life in every aspect. Well that's generally true but not specifically in every circumstance and there are many-many times when there will be deliberate testing of your faith because he loves you. We learn like that because this is happening.

John 11:11-15 (ESV) After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." **13** Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

*Why was Jesus glad?*

At the time Jesus arrived, it is four days later on and to illustrate this there was a recent show called Flatliners. It is a show where a group of medical students, what they did was they wanted to explore the brain activity when the heart stops. Some people describing entering a tunnel of light and then they are lifted up and they can actually see people working on their hearts. There are lots and lots of documented cases like that and they are wondering, they want to explore the other side of life and so what they did was they put each other to stop their hearts through electric convulsion and then waited and then looked at the blood flow to the brain to see whether it is working and then at an appropriate time they shock them to bring them back. Interesting show, but you can't remain dead for any longer than about three to four minutes, otherwise you will be permanently dead.

Jesus delays, so by the time he comes back it is not three to four minutes, it is four days. By the time four days come rigor mortis in the body has already set in and on the fourth day stuff will start coming out of your mouth, your back side, all of the fluids will start coming out, it stinks, it is irreversible and there is a Jewish myth that the spirit will hang around until the fourth day. In four days, nothing happens the spirit will go off for ever. So at the fourth day, there is absolutely no chance that a person who they think is dead will ever be resuscitated because in those days they don't have ECG machine. So the difference between resuscitation and resurrection, very-very important. The fact that he is actually dead extenuates the glory of God. He has got to be convincingly dead, so there is no argument, may be second day, first day, there is resuscitation but here Jesus very-very sure he wants to extenuate the glory is associated with this healing.

In any kind of situation, you have got a cure, where you have got miraculous curing power of God or you got no cure, we actually look at the miraculous sustaining power of God. A lot of people because of the way gospels are constructed, you must understand why they are constructed in such a way. The seven signs point to the fact that Jesus is the son of God. It is for a specific purpose, that doesn't mean Jesus is one dimensional, every case he will heal. So therefore people, if they read the gospel in a very superficial fashion, what they will do is just focus on one aspect of it and the other aspect they completely ignore.

If we look at Joni Eareckson and we compare it with Lazarus

<b>Lazarus</b>	<b>Joni Eareckson</b>
Power of Jesus over death itself	Power of Jesus over life itself
Historical context prepares the disciples for Jesus own resurrection.	Historical context prepares the world to see meaning in suffering. She has touched millions of peoples life because God didn't heal her but God sustained her.
Historical context provokes the Pharisees to issue the order to arrest and then kill Jesus	Highlights God's grace and sustaining power
Produces devotion and faith in Mary and Martha as well as disciples	Produces enduring faith and spiritual maturity in Joni

If we look at the man who was blind and Job

<b>Blind Man</b>	<b>Job</b>
Power of Jesus over blindness itself	Power of God over circumstances. Job was rich, became poor and sick and became rich again. So God is sovereign over all circumstances.
Fulfills prophesy of Messiah opening eyes of blind	Shows us and Jobs friends righteous people can suffer for no apparent reason
Historical context demonstrates how the seeing Pharisees were deliberately blind and the honest blind man could easily see, so it accentuates the guilt of the Pharisees. So this man fits into the historical context of showing the hard-heartedness of the Pharisees.	Job suffered to demonstrate to Satan that he loves God not just for the good things God has given him
Produces faith in the blind man	Produces enduring faith and spiritual maturity

So every event that happens in life is there to elicit a response. You either respond in blindness or you respond in faith. The gospel of John just tells you that.

[John 11:9-10 \(ESV\)](#) **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10** But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

This is in response to them wanting to go to Judea. The risk is if he goes to Judea, he will be arrested and killed but Jesus says these words, *are there not 12 hours in a day*. Now if you are in a day, limited time, if you walk you won't stumble. If you walk at night you will stumble. So basically what he is saying is that

## **B. UNDERSTANDING A STRONG SENSE OF DESTINY LIBERATES US**

John 9:4-5 (ESV) We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

So it is in response to the question, if we go to Judea, won't we get stoned and die. The disciple says, you are going to go back down there won't we get stoned and die and Jesus responds by saying, 'day time you can walk you won't fall down,' night time you cannot walk anymore. Jesus is saying, so therefore there is limited time of opportunity where there is time for ministry. So when you can minister during a day time, when night comes there is no longer any time to minister. So let's translate that to answering this question

*If we go to Judea, won't we get killed?*

When Jesus is here with you, it is day time but there will come a time when he will be taken away. There will come a time when they will capture him and they will crucify him and he is not going to be with them anymore. So God has given Jesus that three years, the three Passovers and during that particular time, no matter what they did, they couldn't kill him. He escaped death many-many times because it was not his time. He has given the whole day time, but when the night comes there is no work to be done.

The same actually applies to us. We must have a sense of destiny. Every single one of us, God knows exactly how long you got to live, but he is also going to hold you accountable for what you do with your life. All of you have destiny, all of you are like Jesus sent into the world with a particular mission and until you finish your mission, you are supported by God's grace.

So therefore we need to learn to have a sense of divine destiny, we need to have a purpose and a mission that will be completely protected until our mission is completed. It actually liberates us to be bold, to have resolve and to seek guidance that no matter what happens, God will guide us to finish our mission and every single one has a gift and everyone has a mission and just like Jesus we will not be taken until that mission is over, very important lesson.

## **C. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

John 11:17-20 (ESV) Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

Mary stayed back and she might have thought that her brother is already dead, what is the reason for the coming of Jesus. So that's the problem there,

John 11:21-24 (ESV) Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

It is not unreasonable to have this kind of faith. She got enough faith that God will raise on the last day but she doesn't understand specific will of God that God will raise him now for particular miracle. So I think that's understandable.

John 11:25-26 (ESV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

This is a very powerful statement. It applies to a person. Which means it all comes through him. He is the life. All of us live under the shadow of death and the biggest thing in the world is actually is this, we can deny it, we don't talk about it, we dress up death, we cannot look death in the eyes, so we try to avoid it. Becker use to write and say that all of society, all of culture is actually an effort to deny the problem of death or we may sentimentalize death.

If life is so natural and even when you sentimentalize death, yet when death comes everybody cries. Fighting death is also another way of the world. Greek historian Herodotus actually wrote about the fountain of youth and everybody is looking for the fountain of youth because there is an inbuilt desire in all of us to live forever.

Alexander the great used all his wealth to actually look for the fountain of youth. He explored, he conquered, to look for the fountain of youth but he never found it. Modern billionaires like Larry Ellison and Peter Theil are putting money in order to research so that we could extend life. Now by gene therapy there is a possibility of increasing life.

Death is an enemy and when he says, I am the resurrection and life, he actually refers to chapter 1

John 1:3-4 (ESV) All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

So this is Jesus, he is the one who is the creator, he is the one that gives life. He is the one to give resurrection, it is in a person not in the ideology. So the promise is for everyone.

**25. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live**

The die here is physical death.

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never **die**. Do you believe this?"

This die is an eternal death. So there is a word for the living and the word for the dead. The word for the dead is, though you die yet shall you live and word to the living is though you live, you will never die, that's his promise because he is the resurrection and life.

25. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live

It is basically eternal life; it is the quality of life. So when we come to this problem of resurrection and life. Now if you were human like all the Jews at that time.

v21 if you had been here, my brother would not have died

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

So when Jesus came late to the party, everyone is asking, why he come late. If he had come earlier, he wouldn't have died. So when things don't go well in our lives, we only see things from one dimension, from a human perspective.

If you look at life from one side, you can never understand it. Why does God delay, God has a power to overturn this, why didn't God come and for many of us in our lives when we are really in trouble and you just feel that it is so hopeless. We come to a part of life that we didn't get what we want, because we are looking on one side, we don't have the whole story. When you don't have the whole story, you got a problem.

V4b It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Alan Turing was famous for the Enigma machine which the Nazi's used to send message from their generals to their soldiers, to fight during World War II and this was a very brilliant man and he actually was managed to decode this machine. He is the father of modern computing. So every time Hitler will send a message to his generals to attack this particular place, they already read it. With this machine they defeated the Nazi's, but if they kept on intercepting and acting on every single message, Hitler would have realized that something is happening they would.

There was a British movie, in which there was a time when the ship was going to be torpedoed and they got the message that the British ship was going to be torpedoed and

one of the people were decoding and his brother was on the ship and he had a dilemma, 'do I tell the ship captain to change course, because if I tell the ship captain to change course then the Nazi's would know that they there messages have been intercepted and decoded and we would have lost our advantage.' They let the submarine torpedo the ship and 100s and 1000s of soldiers died, but only later on they found out that because of this machine they have cut down the war. They are talking about 7 million deaths per year that you could save by actually cutting every year of war they would stop at that time. It was for greater good.

This is same thing as we as Christians were sitting in a boat, God has all the answers and we don't know why he doesn't save us. There is a greater purpose in life, it is for the glory of God and also that Jesus is the resurrection and life. Job was prosperous, he had a catastrophe and he got prosperity again. So it doesn't matter what your story is, it doesn't really matter because at the end there is resurrection and eternal life. All of us don't see the final chapter. Jesus is saying, it doesn't matter, because at the end of time I am going to make it alright. I am the resurrection and I am the life, you will never die. Jesus, no matter what ministry you go through, he will promise you to live forever and ever and when you have that it makes all the suffering alright. That's a very important thing.

#### **D. JESUS RESPONSE TO LAZARUS SHOWS US THE HEART OF GOD IN OUR SUFFERING**

[John 11:33-37 \(ESV\) When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"](#)

The word moved in the spirit is actually 'embrimaomai,' which actually means snorting of horses. So it is like very indignant, outraged or angry. This is his response to death. If you look at it, it is a bit odd. He comes, he sees people crying and all that, he is upset, he is indignant, he is troubled and the later on it says, he wept but 5 seconds later on he is going to heal him. *So why was Jesus crying?*

When Jesus sees the pain, he sees that the sorrow, he reacts. Lazarus is not like I use you to demonstrate my glory. He doesn't see that. He sees the pain and he really feels and he really loves. That's what God is trying to tell us in this passage that we were not just a number, I really care for you. Jesus cried because of one person. When Jesus sees suffering and pain in your life, he gets angry at the devil, he gets angry at our stupidity, even though one day we will be with him and he shows us his true heart in this particular story. So that's very important to understand.

John 11:41-44 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The difference between Lazarus and Jesus resurrection. Lazarus resurrection was a physical resurrection. Jesus resurrection, he passed through the cloth and yet he is physical as well. So it is a different resurrected body, it goes through walls and it goes through the linen and is not bound by anything at all.

### **E. THE GLORY OF GOD FOR THE GOOD OF MAN**

How does death bring glory to God?

John 11:40 (ESV) Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

John 9:3 (ESV) Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- Death reveals God to be holy and just
- It demonstrates that death is the last enemy God will defeat in Jesus
- Victorious testimony of the saints in the face of death

So there is so much growth in the church today, is because the saints are not afraid of dying. The church grows because of the death of the saints and every saint that goes through death, willing to face death because of his faith proves to the world the authenticity and power of his resurrection life. That's why death glorifies God in that sense.

*Does God cause evil to occur?*

- Evil occurs out of free will of man.
- Evil is not outside Gods' control.
- God can use good or evil to glorify his name.

Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe

So Jesus is actually glad for a reason that you may believe.

John 20:30-31 (ESV) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Now the question is that when bad or good things, we all do things to glorify God, but at the bottom of a lot of our hearts, we might raise a question about God's goodness, who lets people die so that He can look good. The answer to that is actually those two verses. God does things for his glory. So that's God glory is like the red sign. So you recognize the sign and then you go and jump on the sign and your life will be saved. God doesn't do it because he is selfish, he does it because he deserves it and he does it so that you will see his glory and you will run towards him and grab him because he is the resurrection and the life. If he is not red, you won't grab him and that answers our deepest fears. So we actually see the glory of God, Jesus, you can either believe or have unbelief. Glory of God is for the good of man and the bleeding heart of Jesus and his tears and his anger show us that very clearly in this particular verse.

#### **F. MIRACLES DO WILL NOT RELIABLY PRODUCE FAITH...THE WORD OF GOD DOES**

Luke 16:19-31 (ESV) There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. **24** And he called out, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' **25** But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. **26** And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' **27** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— **28** for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' **29** But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' **30** And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' **31** He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

This parable was told a few weeks before the healing of Lazarus. The poor man name in this parable was Lazarus. Now if we put the two stories together, when Lazarus was raised from the dead the people from that day on made plans to put him to death. So it tells you that when you have miracles, even when a person comes back to life, no. What do you need to

believe in Jesus? You need the word of God, which is the only thing that will save people's life. Everything else is supporting, but it is the word of God that you need to believe in.

Maria Garriott wrote a book called 'A Thousand Resurrections'. Maria and her husband worked in the inner cities of Baltimore, very tough city. Her experience there is really is very touching in terms of this idea of resurrection. She went there to live among these people for 30 years. She was a bright college student, she could have any career that she wanted but she married someone with a similar heart and they went to live among the poor and she writes these words,

*I did not know that we would scrape by just above the poverty line for years. That I would live with people who heard voices, who had spent most of their lives in juvenile hall or in prison or that I would share a house with women who sold their bodies, snorted cocaine, whose boyfriends would choke and punch them. I did not know that my children would be lead poisoned, their friend who ate at our table, our god son would not go to college with them but would go to prison. That a little boy with no daddy at home that would bake cookie in my kitchen and hunted snakes with my son would one day lie in the street in a pool of blood. I did not know that several times a week for years my husband would wake up in the night agonising over whether we would be able to reach the neighbourhood at all. I did not know that when I was scrapped raw that Jesus would heal me, that when I was broken that God would use brokenness and that life could spring up in hope again where it seemed that dying and evil had gained the upper hand. I did not know I would witness a 1000 resurrections.*

*That the church members who struggled to pay the rent would adopt nieces and nephews to save them from drug addicted parents. That a woman in our church who saw a teenaged mother roll a baby in a stroller into an empty house and abandon it there would herself then raise that baby as her own and give that child hope and life. I did not know that men who snorted cocaine could get clean and love Jesus and women sexually abused by their fathers could be healed and then could actually rescue other children and give them hope of life.*

*I did not know that Muslims from Iraq, Atheists from China and Hindus from India would actually find Jesus and would actually fill me with faith. I did not know that they would become my heroes and friends. I did not know that they would be braided into my heart and that I would know the resurrection through the resurrection of Christ in them. I have seen 1000 resurrections, why because through them in whom Christ works are united to the resurrection and the Life. I did not know.'*

She describes the power of the resurrection and life that lives in every person who is transformed in that neighborhood and she sees the beauty of that in their lives. Live with a sense of destiny that God has sat you aside for a purpose and that purpose is to glorify him, so that others may be saved.