

**Big idea: Neither God's silence nor his delays impact his love for us, but they are often the means he uses to grow us in our faith.**

**I. So far in chapter 11 we've seen...**

- A. The CONTEXT – last of the 7 MIRACLES; 5<sup>th</sup> of the I AM'S**
- B. The CHRONOLOGY – chapter 10 Jesus leaves Judea; chapter 11 word comes that Lazurus is sick; Jesus STAYS two more days**
- C. The CONSEQUENCES -**
  - 1. From the HUMAN viewpoint – Lazurus is sick – love him – come = HEALED**
  - 2. From the DIVINE viewpoint – v. 6 is because of v. 5 – silence is for the GLORY of God**
  - 3. Two lessons:**
    - Let your REQUESTS be made known
    - TRUST that whatever God does it's out of love and for our GOOD

**II. The shadow of death...**

- A. The PLAN to return to Judea vs. 7-10**
  - 1. The PROPOSAL v. 7**
  - 2. The PROTEST v. 8**
  - 3. The PROVERB vs. 9-10**
    - The goal and purpose of our lives is to do God's WILL
    - The time allotted to me is FIXED

**B. The PURPOSES of the return to Judea vs. 11-20**

**1. For LAZURUS vs. 11-13**

- Another METAPHOR missed
  
- New Testament picture of DEATH

**2. For the DISCIPLES vs. 14-16**

- SURPRISING words
  - Lazurus is DEAD
  
  - I am GLAD
  
- PURPOSEFUL words
  - For the DISCIPLES
  
  - And for US too

**3. For MARTHA vs. 17-20**

- All DOUBT removed
  
- Another INDICATOR

**III. What we take away... When we're struggling in our suffering and doubts begin to grow, look again to the cross and see the greatness of God's love.**