

SUFFERING AND SUFFERERS

John 11:1-44

SUFFERING AND GOD'S LOVE

John 11:3 – “Lord, the one you *love* is sick.”

John 11:5-6 – Jesus *loved* Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

John 11:36 – Then the Jews said, “See how he *loved* him!”

- Interpreting God's love and our circumstances

SUFFERING AND GOD'S HONOR

John 11:4 – When Jesus heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for *God's glory* so that God's Son may be glorified through it.”

John 11:14 – So he (Jesus) told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, *so that you may believe*. But let us go to him.”

John 11:25-26 – Jesus said to her (Martha), “*I am the resurrection and the life*. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

- Honor and Obedience

John 11:39 – “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there for four days.”

- Honor and Resurrection Power

John 11:42 – “I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

John 11:43 – “Lazarus, come out!”

John 11:44 – “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

CAR TALK:

Describe the deepest suffering you have experienced and how you would compare that with the suffering of another you for whom you care.

How have you dealt with God's personal love in the midst of yours or the others suffering? How would you deal with this issue now?