

“PLEASE RELEASE ME ‘Let Me Go’”

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Jesus is always willing to associate his disciples with himself. It pleases Him to see our feeble efforts on his behalf. There are things that only God can do, but there are also those things that God wants us to do.

1. Why Does Jesus Delay?

Jesus loves Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. The three enjoyed an intimate friendship with the Lord. That is why when Jesus learned that Lazarus was sick in John 11, Martha and Mary expected that He would immediately be there. However, Jesus did not come purposely:

1.1 to strengthen the faith of the apostles.

Sometimes, the Lord delays to demonstrate His glory and to increase our faith.

1.2. to remind us who we are appealing to.

We tend to forget that God has the power to interrupt the movements of the universe to answer the prayer of one man.

1.3. to show us that He does not have to be present to work a miracle.

No physical boundaries can ever hinder God's works (Isa. 59:1; Mt. 8:5-13; Mt 15:21-28).

1.4. to convey to us that no circumstance can stop Him.

God's power knows no limits. He is so powerful that His very Words are enough to create the universe.

1.5. to ensure them /us of His miracle.

According to the Jews' beliefs, a person's spirit remains around its corpse for three days before the body starts to decay, which is why Jesus waited until the fourth day.

1.6. to demonstrate God's glory (John 11:4).

1.7. to assure us that delay is a sign of His greater love.

Jesus was planning to show his extraordinary love through a miracle greater than what he did for anyone else.

1.8. to delay might lead to a hopeless situation but it doesn't.

The bigger the problem, the bigger the miracle.

1.9. to prove that He is the Resurrection and the Life. Resurrection is not for the living but also for the dead. Lazarus' death mirrors the deadness of people without Christ (Lk. 15:24; Eph. 2:1-3).

2. The 3 Commands of Jesus in Lazarus' Resurrection

2.1. He told them to take away the stone. The stone represents the doubts, fears, hopelessness, and bitterness which hinder miracles in our lives. Only upon rolling this stone can God's light shine upon us.

2.2. He told Lazarus to come out. There are some things that God wants us to do, and He will not do our jobs for us. He will not read the Bible for us nor do tithes for us.

2.3. He then directed them to unbind him and let him go. Lazarus still wrapped in graveyard clothes is a picture of every newborn child of God. We cannot change others; only God can change people. Yet, we are still required to loosen them (Gal. 6:1). Miracles happen, but it requires a finishing touch. As believers, we cannot do what God has called us to do if we are still bound by our graveyard clothes. To loosen others, we must loosen ourselves first.

3. Conclusion

Jesus holds the key to death, hell, and the grave. There is nothing we are facing that He is not Master of. Yet, there are still times when God calls us to assist.

Reflection:

1. Which areas of your life does God seem to delay? What is God trying to teach you through it?

2. In what ways can you respond to God's call to assist other believers?

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