

John 11 – Life Lessons?

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 22nd January 2013

Starter

Isaiah 55:8-11

The Message (MSG)

8-11 “I don’t think the way you think. The way you work isn’t the way I work.” *God’s Decree.*

“For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don’t go back until they’ve watered the earth, Doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They’ll do the work I sent them to do, they’ll complete the assignment I gave them.

Recap

In Chapter 10 Jesus uses the teaching of a picture of a sheepfold:-

- declaring himself to be the door to the fold
- declaring himself to be the Shepherd of the sheep

- Also being challenged at the Feast of Dedication
- declaring he is the bringer of eternal life
- declaring he is one with the Father
- being opposed for blasphemy
- challenging the people to believe his miracles
- going back into the countryside

Jesus split people either they were for Him or against, but it was becoming harder not to take a side.

John 11

The Death of Lazarus 1-16

1-3 Q Can we remember anything about Martha and Mary – Luke 10 38-41

4-6 – Q Why do we think Jesus delayed, where he was for two more days?

7-10, 11-16

Jesus Comforts the Sisters 17-37

17-20 Four days – Many Jews at the time believed that the soul stayed near the body for three days after death

Q How far were they from Jerusalem? - What was the significance of this distance?

21-24

25-31 Q How does Jesus respond to Martha's comments?

32-37 Q Why did Jesus weep

Jesus raises Lazarus from the Dead 38-44

38-40 Q Why did Martha try to stop Jesus?

41-44 Q Why was the moving of the stone significant? A It was probably not something that could have been done by one person, so some of the crowd/disciples would have had to have helped.

Acts 12 20-24 Q Do we think God uses death as a judgement now days, or was it just something that was used in Biblical times?

Plot to Kill Jesus 45-57

45-50 Q What do we think about Caiphas's recommendation?

51-54

55-57 Q Are there any modern day examples that are similar to Caiphas's suggestion.

This passage lends itself to some general questions -

- Q What do we think in the first instance when God does not seem to answer our prayers?
- Q What limits our faith?
- Q How can our faith be increased?

Recap

- News of Lazarus's illness, but Jesus staying put

- Lazarus's death and Jesus then coming
- The responses of Martha and Mary
- Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead
- The Jews telling the leaders what had happened
- The Sanhedrin starting to plot Jesus' death
- Jesus withdrawing from public ministry

Things to remember :-

- Jesus is in complete control, even when he appears to do nothing
- Jesus' timing is perfect because he knows God's will
- Our faith is stretched and enlarged in crisis situations
- Jesus loves us even with our limited faith