

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

TRUST IN THE LORD

John 11:6 “When He (Jesus) heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was.” (Read John 11:1-6)

Lazarus was ill. That is all that is said in verse 1. Two thousand years ago, illness was a serious matter. There were no ER's, medical clinics and no WebMD. I'm sure there were home remedies that had been passed down through the generations. We know there were physicians, because the Scriptures tell us that Luke was one. (Colossians 4:14) We don't know a lot about what physicians were able to do, but we do know from Bible accounts many people were brought to Jesus for healing because there were no known cures for their illnesses or therapies for their disabilities.

Whatever illness Lazarus had, when Jesus heard of it, verse 6 says, “He stayed where He was two days longer”. Another translation says “He delayed.” It appears Jesus made a conscience decision to not go immediately to attend to His dear friend's illness. As was true previously, so again, Jesus chose to act in His way and in His time.

With modern medicine, surgeries, treatments and therapies, we are far more accustomed to illnesses being cured, disabilities treated and death prevented. Yet, we also know there comes a time when doctors no longer can provide a cure, disabilities remain and death happens. It is especially during these times in our life, or of a loved one, when a Christian prays more fervently, pleads with God for a miracle and with expectant faith waits for God's answer.

Jesus was in no rush to get to the side of Lazarus nor minister to his sisters. He intentionally delayed. His decision in this case brings to mind the words of Solomon in Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your paths” and the third petition of the Lord's prayer, “Thy will be done.”

Prayer: Dear Jesus, using the words of the hymn in yesterday's devotion, I pray today, "Take my hand and lead me, along life's way." In Your holy name. Amen.

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon Life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.
(LSB 722)