

For the Glory of God

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John 11:1-6

This is the SEVENTH SIGN. The CLIMACTIC SIGN. The GREATEST SIGN. *Semeion*.

- Remember a SIGN - a MIRACLE that points to the DEITY of CHRIST.
- John 20:30 – [30] *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
 - 1) Water into Wine – John 2
 - 2) Healing of the Nobleman's Son – John 4
 - 3) Healing of the Man who had been Lame for 38 years – John 5
 - 4) Feeding of the 5,000 – John 6
 - 5) Walking on Water – John 6
 - 6) Healing the Man who had been born Blind – John 9
 - 7) He will RAISE, named LAZARUS from the DEAD.

John saves this final CLIMACTIC SIGN to unveil CHRIST's GLORY to us. This is the SIGN that MOST reveals JESUS's MISSION.

- John 11:25 – [25] *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.*
- Lazarus's resurrection points to the REALITY that JESUS came to defeat SIN and DEATH.

THIS SIGN TEACHES one of the MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS of CHRISTIANITY.

- The GLORY of GOD.
 - *If you have the glory of God, nothing else matters.*
 - *If you don't have the glory of God, nothing else matters.*
 - What is MOST needed is the REALIZATION of GOD's GLORY.
 - Psalm 34:3 – [3] *Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.*

Jesus knew and understood this.

11:1 – [1] *Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.*

- Lazarus was not just SICK. The Lexicon meaning "A debilitating illness".
- John 4:46 the Nobleman's son. (asthenia)
 - Lazarus lived in Bethany...
 - Bethany is a stone's throw from Jerusalem.
 - To the East – about two miles from Jerusalem.
- This is the first place Mary and Martha of Bethany are mentioned in John's Gospel.
 - They are also mentioned in Luke 10 –

- Where Martha was serving... but Mary was listening at Jesus's feet.

11:2 – [2] *It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.*

- This event has not happened yet...
 - This event happens in JOHN 12.
 - Simply a clarifying note by JOHN.

11:3 – [3] *So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."*

- They send a message a great distance – close to twenty to thirty miles.
 - Jesus is near another town called Bethany on the other side of the Jordan.
 - Remember, JESUS at the end of JOHN 10 went WEST into the WILDERNESS... on the other side of the JORDAN RIVER.

11:4 – [4] *But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

- Jesus said... the ultimate purpose of this ILLNESS is not for DEATH... but it is for the GLORY of GOD. God's INTENTION is not the death of Lazarus but the glorification of the Son of GOD.
- He will display His glory and be glorified when He raises Lazarus from the dead.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17 – [17] *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*
 - 2 Cor 4:7 – [7] *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

11:5 – [5] *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

- Jesus loved 'agapao' Martha, and Mary and Lazarus...

[6] *So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.*

- So JESUS stays two DAYS LONGER.
- So they might experience His Glory!

What is the GLORY of GOD?

- *The Glory of God – the Radiance of His Holy attributes.*
- *The Glory of God is the outward expression of His character.*
- God is so HOLY that HIS CHARACTER radiates out this SHIKINAH GLORY.
 - Luke 2:9 – "The glory of the Lord shone around." The glory was from the presence of GOD.
 - Remember the Transfiguration. Matthew 17:1 – [1] *And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. [2] And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.*
 - Matthew 25:31 – [31] *"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne."*
- HIS GLORY is LIGHT radiating outward.

But there is another SENSE of the GLORY of GOD.

- Romans 9:4 – [4] *They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.*
- What DOES he MEAN by GLORY?
 - He means the REALIZATION of the PRESENCE of GOD.
 - Israel in the WILDERNESS was accompanied by a PILLAR of CLOUD by DAY and a PILLAR of FIRE by NIGHT.
 - It was the GLORY CLOUD.
 - It represented the DIVINE PRESENCE.
 - When the Temple was dedicated the GLORY CLOUD came into the TEMPLE.
- This is the MEANING of In Exodus 33:18 – Moses asks the LORD – *“Please, show me your glory.”*
 - Moses was ASKING for GOD to show HIM His PRESENCE.
 - God says, you cannot take the glory head on – “You cannot see my face.”
 - I will put you in the cleft of the ROCK.
 - I will cover you with my HAND and then I will pass by.
- PAUL – Romans 8:18 – [18] *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

When JESUS says, this illness is for the glory of God, so that the Son of Man may be glorified through it. HE MEANS:

- Through this ILLNESS you will REALIZE that you are in the PRESENCE of GOD.
- Through this ILLNESS your life will be completely changed because you will EXPERIENCE the GLORY.

God REVEALS HIS GLORY to those HE LOVES.

- Jonathan Edwards - “The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God; by which also God is magnified and exalted.”
- There is NO HIGHER, more BLESSED reality than beholding the GLORY of GOD.

How do we Get to the Glory? How do we get to the PRESENCE of CHRIST?

1) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY in the GOSPEL

- The GOSPEL reveals the character of God to us.
- 2 Corinthians 4:6 – [6] *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
 - God reveals His infinite character to us in the face of JESUS CHRIST.

2) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY through the WITNESS of the SPIRIT

- Colossians 1:27 – [27] *To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
 - There is this incredible mystery... something that was partially hidden but now revealed.
 - That GENTILES would take part in the kingdom of GOD.
 - And the HOLY SPIRIT – the SPIRIT of CHRIST... testifies in our HEARTS to this HOPE of a FUTURE GLORY.

- Romans 8:14 – [14] *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
- Romans 8:16 – [16] *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
- The GLORY of it all is that in the HOLY SPIRIT. CHRIST is with you.

3) We EXPERIENCE His GLORY in CREATION

- Psalm 19:1 – [1] *The heavens declare the glory of God.*
 - You interpret God’s creation in light of its CREATOR.
- The CHRISTIAN begins to interpret God’s CREATION correctly.
 - It’s not JUST MERE COSMIC DUST.
 - It’s the HANDIWORK of GOD proclaiming His Majesty.

4) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY in SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification is the process by which we are made HOLY. Where we are more conformed to CHRIST’s IMAGE.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 – [18] *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*
- As you see the SWEETNESS of CHRIST in the GOSPELS.
 - In the WORD of GOD you get to the GLORY.
 - And the HOLY SPIRIT brings the GLORY to you.
 - So as you see CHRIST, you are transformed from one degree of glory to another.

5) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY through ANSEWERED PRAYER

- Ephesians 3:20 – [20] *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
- When God answers PRAYERS WE SEE HIS POWER and GLORY!

6) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY through WORSHIP

We must not neglect corporate worship. Because in Corporate Worship. God’s Word brings to us the GLORY of CHRIST.

- Rom 11:36 – [36] *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*
- Rom 16:27 – [27] *to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*
- 1 Tim 1:17 – [17] *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only god, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*
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7) We EXPERIENCE HIS GLORY when WE SEE HIM

Colossians 3:4 – [4] *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

1 John 3:2 – [2] *Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

- We will be transformed into RESURRECTION BODIES. Like the risen Christ.
- We will be transformed into ULTIMATE GLORY.