



**The Self Isolation  
of Jesus  
John 11: 5-6**

# This Story Told By John Has an Interesting Narrative About Jesus!

*“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when He heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where He was two more days.”*

- Doesn't that sound “contradictory?”
- The love (agape) of Christ generally compels a person to go, but here Jesus stays where He is. What was He doing?
- Why did He continue to “self isolate” Himself from loved ones who requested His presence for relief of their agony?
- Well, at the end of John chapter 10, Jesus is teaching, and converting people, when He gets the word about Lazarus' severe illness in John 11, and their urgent request for Him

# Observations

- Remember, the apostle John tells us at the beginning of this gospel, that Jesus knew who He was, John 1:1-5; 10-14
- Jesus also knew Lazarus and his sisters questioned His timing (like us). Where on earth could He be? (family friend)
- Here's the Point: Jesus knew He was God, and if He watches over the sparrow, with His spiritual eye, He knows what is going on with Lazarus from the Jordan River where He was preaching, or what's going with or you and me, Hebrews 4:15-16.
- And so, He stays at the Jordan River, doing His Father's will, teaching and baptizing believers
- Therefore, as God/Man, Jesus knew and felt for Lazarus and his sisters in his situation (ex. agony, pain, his last breath)

# At Some Point We All Face the “Waiting Room Experience!”

- **God challenges us with the experience of having to self-isolate and take our seats in “the waiting rooms (situations) of life!”**
- **The fact is, that there are some crises that we can do nothing about (our earthly power is limited)**
- **It’s the seat we take when we can do nothing about our situation but self isolate in the waiting room of life and wait on Jesus for the outcome (grown children’s decisions, illnesses of loved ones or ours, personal Covid decisions)**
- **Our hands are tied, our masks are on, and distancing has already been enforced**
- **And so, in God’s E.R. or His waiting room, we wait on Him for relief**

# Observations

- This story is about God causing Jesus to practice “sacred distancing,” not necessarily social distancing
- God ordained Jesus to teach lessons that were better learned from a distance (isolation) rather than in close proximity (who Jesus really was accented His distance).
- Jesus, by waiting two more days before going to where Lazarus His friend was, acted on God’s timing (delay)
- Jesus learned in this story about the agony that loved ones go through, as humans, when their people are suffering (Remember that Jesus was both “fully a man and fully God.”) He agonized with the family. *Jesus wept. John 11:35*
- Only by going through this idea of “isolation” could experience be His teacher. *“Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted, Hebrews 2:18*

# Observations

- In order to grow sometimes we may be invited by God to a season of, *“Spiritual Self Isolation”*
- We *“grow through what we’ve gone through”* and therefore like Jesus we learn through our suffering:

*“Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. Hebrews 5:8-9*

- There is no hope for Jesus’ resurrection without a death and a burial
- There is no joy in the morning until tears are shed at night
- Sowing in a season of *“Lockdown”* or *“Isolation”* can cause a reaping or harvesting of blessings otherwise not achieved

- **Before making a beautiful piece of jewelry, silversmiths take silver and place it in a smelting pot**
- **They hold the silver over an intensely hot fire**
- **The heat is raised to burn off the impurities but  
Not to injure or ruin the silver**
- **How does the silversmith know when the silver is ready?**
- **When he can see his image in the silver**

# Observations



- **A silversmith satisfied with impurities would be less than an expert craftsman**
- **The impurities must be separated out so that the brilliance and luster of the silver is revealed**
- **God is not satisfied with our impurities (He loves us too much)**
- **God, the Master Craftsman, will remove the impurities in our lives so that His image shines in us**





***“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen (tested) thee in the furnace of affliction.***

***Isaiah 48:10***

**Our Challenge is: To Let Our Lights Shine Even During a WORLD PANDEMIC so that Christ’s Image Is Seen In Us!**

**Matthew 5:16, Galatians 2:20; Romans 5:3-5**



# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**