

Life or Death?

John 11:1-16

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- 9-1-1 and first responders
- When something goes wrong, calls for investigation

Life or Death?

A. The Delay: “Time is of the essence!”

1. The 9-1-1 Call for Jesus’ help—11:1-3
 - a. Call came from two sisters whom Jesus knew.
 - b. Call concerned someone Jesus knew well
 - c. Caller thought that Jesus would respond immediately.
2. The Two-day Delay-- 11:6-7
 - a. Not due to Jesus’ inability to heal Lazarus
 - 1) Demonstrated ability to heal organic diseases.
 - 2) Demonstrated ability to heal from a distance—Matt. 8
 - b. Not due to Jesus’ lack of love for Lazarus—11:5, 36
 - c. Provides an opportunity for God the Father and Son to be glorified.—11:4
 - d. Provides an opportunity to build the disciples’ faith—11:15

B. The Proper Perspective on LIFE-- 11:5-10

1. Background to the lesson
2. Jesus’ Perspective on LIFE
 - a. God determines the time allotted to each—Ps. 139:16
 - b. During the time allotted to us, we have work to do. John 9:4
 - c. The time allotted to us is fixed—it cannot be added to nor shortened. Therefore we are invincible until God decides our time is up
 - d. Jesus’ advantage: Knew the hour of his death—John 12:23

C. The Biblical Perspective on DEATH—11:11-16

1. Physical death is likened to “Sleep” or “Falling asleep”
2. Not “Soul Sleep” where the entire person sleeps until the resurrection, but rather physical body appears to be sleep.
3. Death= separation of the material and immaterial. Body decays, but our soul or spirit survives in a conscious state in the presence of Christ. Eccl. 12:7; Phil. 1:21-24; 2 Cor. 5:8
4. Death is like “sleep” in that...
 - a. We rest from our life’s work
 - b. We enter an altered state of consciousness—as real as the world in which we are now living. Fully alive in God’s presence.