

“Follow On”
John 11:7-16

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 11 - Which:
 - We Started Looking At Last Sunday:
 - And Were Introduced To Some Of The Main Characters:
 - Who Will All Play A Part In:
 - One Of The Most Dramatic Miracles Of Jesus' Ministry:
 - The Raising Of Lazarus From The Dead!
2. Now - After Jesus Received:
 - The Message From Martha & Mary:
 - That Their Brother Was Seriously Sick!
 - We Were Told In 11:6:
 - That Jesus “Abode Two Days Still In The Same Place Where He Was!”
 - Now - Jesus Did This:
 - Not Because:
 - He Did Not Hear Them!
 - Not Because:
 - He Did Not Love Them! And:
 - Not Because:
 - Could Not Help Them!
 - Instead - He “Abode” Those “Two Days”
 - Because - As We Learned From An Earlier Miracle:
 - Jesus “Himself Knew What He Would Do!” (6:6)
3. And So - After Those Two Days:
 - Starting In 11:7 - We Read About:
 - Jesus' Intention To Return To Judea - And:
 - His Invitation To His Disciples:
 - To Go With Him!
 - 11:7-16 - “Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. / His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? / Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. / But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. / These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. / Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. / Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. / Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. / And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. / Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him!”
4. So - For Two Days:
 - The Fact That Lazarus Was Sick:
 - Didn't Seem To Bother Jesus! And So:
 - It Doesn't Seem To Bother:
 - His Disciples Either!
 - Especially Since:
 - The Last Time They Were:
 - Near The Home Of Lazarus & His Sisters:
 - Things Did Not Go So Well!
 - Remember - Bethany Was Just Two Miles From Jerusalem!
5. But - When Jesus Finally:
 - Expresses His Intention:
 - To Cross The Jordan River - And:
 - Return To Judea - And:
 - Invites His Disciples:
 - To Join Him - In 11:7:
 - “Let Us Go Unto Judea Again!”
 - We First See Some:

1. **Reservation To Jesus' Plan:**

- By His Disciples:
 - In 11:8 - Where Again:
 - "His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?"
 - The Events Of Chapter 10:
 - When They Were With Jesus At The Temple:
 - During The Feast Of Dedication:
 - Was Fresh On Their Minds!
 - And - They Remind Jesus:
 - That The Jews There:
 - Did Seek To Stone Him!
 - They Had Even Surrounded Jesus With Rocks At The Ready:
 - In Their Hands!
 - And So - The Disciples – Most Of Whom Were Galileans:
 - Had Enough Of Those People - And:
 - Had Enough Of That Place!
 - Hadn't Jesus?
 - Now - They Protested:
 - Against Jesus' Plans - Certainly:
 - Out Of Concern For Jesus & His Safety!
 - But - As We Go Through This Passage:
 - You Get The Sense That:
 - They Were Concerned For:
 - Their Own Safety As Well!
 - But - Jesus Uses Their:
 - Reservation To His Plan To Return:
 - As A Teaching Moment!
 - To Teach Them & Us:
 - A Lesson About Light!
 - Even His Light!
 - And - He Does So:
 - Through A Proverb:
 - Of Some Basic, Natural Truths!
 - Starting In:
 - 11:9-10 - Where, We Are Told:
 - "Jesus Answered!"
 - Once Again - When Jesus Answers:
 - He Does Not Answer:
 - In The Way They *Want* Him To!
 - Instead He Answers:
 - In The Way They *Need* Him To!
 - And So - In Jesus' Answer - He Reminds His Disciples Of:
 - Three Basis, Natural Truths:
 - "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. / But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him!"
 - On The Face Of It:
 - Everything Jesus Said Is:
 - Naturally & Generally True!
 - There Are & Were - Roughly:
 - 12 Hours In The Day!
 - And - A Person Who Walks In The Daytime:
 - Usually - Will Not Stumble & Fall:
 - Because Of The Light Of The Sun!
 - But - Someone Who Walks At Night - Can Easily:
 - Stumble & Fall:
 - Because Of The Darkness!

- All This Is True! But - What's The Point, Then:
 - Of Jesus Answer?
 - Well - Right At The End:
 - Of 11:10 - We See That These Truths Were Meant For Teaching!
- Because - Instead Of Describing How:
 - A Man Might Stumble At Night:
 - Because "There Is No Light" - Above Him Or Around Him - He Says Instead:
 - "There Is No Light In Him!"
 - So - Jesus Is Not Just Talking:
 - In Natural Terms!
 - He Is Teaching About:
 - Spiritual Truth Through These Proverbs!
- And So - Jesus Wanted To Teach His Disciples:
 - Three Lessons:
 - About Light!
 - Not Merely The Light Of The Sun!
 - But - His Light - As:
 - The True "Light Of This World!"
 - And So - Through The First Truth:
 - Jesus Seeks:
- To Counsel His Disciples:
 - About The Limited Period Of Time:
 - The Light Has To Shine:
 - In This World!
 - "Are There Not Twelve Hours In The Day?"
 - Jesus Asks!
 - Though This Is Generally True:
 - In Our Time - This Was Literally True:
 - In Jesus Time!
 - However Long Their Day Was:
 - From Sun-Up - To - Sun-Down:
 - They Divided That Time Into Twelve Hours!
 - But - The Main Point Of This Natural Truth:
 - Is To Show That:
 - The Time They & All Of Us Have:
 - Under The Light Of The Sun:
 - Is Limited & Short!
 - This Was True:
 - Even For Jesus!
 - He Only Had The 12 Hours Of His Life:
 - In Which To Fulfill His Mission & Ministry:
 - In This World!
 - And - The Sand In The Hourglass:
 - Of His Life - Was Rapidly Descending:
 - From The Top To The Bottom!
 - And It Was Now His 11th Hour!
 - And So - It Was Time:
 - To Move Forward In His Ministry:
 - Even If It Meant He Had To Return To The Very Place & People:
 - Where His Life Was Threatened!
 - But - This Was Also True:
 - For His Disciples & For Us!
 - Though His Disciples Did Not Know It:
 - Their Time With Jesus:
 - And His Personal Presence With Them:
 - Was Fleeting!
 - And Yet - Like Them - We Too Only Have The 12 Hours:
 - Of Life - That God Has Given To Us:

- In Which To Foster Our Relationship:
 - With The Lord!
- And - This Relationship All Begins:
 - With Faith In Him!
 - As We Are Told In 2 Corinthians 6:2 - “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!”
- Jesus Counsels Us To:
 - Redeem & Make The Most Of:
 - The Time Of Our Lives:
 - In This World!
 - But - Jesus Also Seeks:
- To Comfort His Disciples:
 - About Their Protection & Preservation:
 - By The Lord!
 - Because - As Jesus Said:
 - In 11:9 - “If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world!”
 - From A Natural Standpoint:
 - There Is Relative Safety:
 - When You Walk Under The Light Of The Sun!
 - But - Is The Sun In The Sky:
 - What Jesus Really Has In Mind?
 - Remember What Jesus Said Back In:
 - 8:12 - When He Forgave The Woman Caught In Adultery?
 - “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life!”
 - As The True “Light Of This World”:
 - Jesus Knew That:
 - As Long As He Was In This World - And:
 - Until His Final Hour Had Come:
 - To Leave This World:
 - No Danger Would Befall Him!
 - He Would Not Stumble!
 - His Life & Times Were In His Father’s Hand!
 - But - This Was Also True:
 - For His Disciples & For Us!
 - For As Long As We “See” Jesus As:
 - The True Light Of This World:
 - And Walk In Fellowship With Him!
 - Whether By Sight Or By Faith!
 - We Too Will Not:
 - Stumble Or Fall!
 - Instead - We Can Enjoy Fellowship:
 - With The Lord - No Matter What We Face In This World!
 - Even As We Are Told In 1 John 1:7 - “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another!”
 - This Comfort From The Lord:
 - Will Breed Courage For The Lord:
 - As We Live & Walk In This World!
 - **IE:** When Missionary John Paton Sought To Reach The Natives Of New Hebrides For Christ - He Faced Many Hardships And Life-Threatening Situations Among A Violent And Cannibalistic People! At One Point, He Was Surrounded By A Raging Mob That Wanted To Kill Him & One Of Their Own! He Would Later Write: “My Heart Rose Up To The Lord Jesus; I Saw Him Watching All The Scene. My Peace Came Back To Me Like A Wave From God. I Realized That I Was Immortal Till My Master’s Work With Me Was Done! The Assurance Came To Me, As If A Voice Out Of Heaven Had Spoken, That Not A Musket Would Be Fired To Would Us, Not A Club Prevail To Strike Us, Not A Spear Leave The Hand In Which It Was Held Vibrating To Be Thrown, Not An Arrow Leave The Bow, Or A Killing Stone The Fingers, Without The Permission Of Jesus Christ, Whose Is All Power In Heaven And On Earth!”

- But - Even If & When Jesus Does Finally Permit Our Death - If You Are Walking In The Day - You Still Will Not Stumble Nor Fall! Because You See Jesus – The “Light Of This World!”
- So - Jesus Counsels Us To:
 - Make The Most Of & Redeem The Time:
 - That You Have In This World!
- Jesus Comforts You:
 - That - Through Faith In Jesus & Fellowship With Jesus - As The Light Of The World:
 - You Will Never Stumble & Fall:
 - From His Grace Or Out Of His Light! No Matter What May Happen To You!
 - So - “Come Ye, And Let Us Walk In The Light Of The Lord!” (Isaiah 2:5)
- But Then - Jesus Also Sought:
- To Challenge His Disciples:
 - About Their Mutual Purpose:
 - In This World!
 - Because - As Jesus Continued:
 - In 11:10 - “But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him!”
 - Here’s Another Natural Truth:
 - Especially At A Time When There Was Very Little Artificial Light At Night!
 - It Can Be Very Dangerous To Walk In The Dark! **IE!**
 - Now - There Can Be Any Number Of Reasons:
 - Why Someone Might Be Walking In The Night!
 - Out Of Necessity! Work!
 - Because Of Some Trial! Storms!
 - On Purpose! Thief!
 - But - What Is True Naturally - Can Also Be Applied:
 - Spiritually! Back In 8:12 - Jesus Said:
 - “He That Followeth Me Shall Not Walk In Darkness!”
 - Which Means That - Those Who Do Not Follow Him Are Sinners Walking In Darkness! And:
 - Sinners Walk In The Night:
 - Out Of Necessity - Because:
 - They Are Born In Sin!
 - Sinners Walk In The Night:
 - Through Trials - Because:
 - They Suffer From The Consequences Of Sin!
 - But - Mostly - Sinners Walk In The Night:
 - On Purpose - Because:
 - It Is Their Choice!
 - And - As Jesus Himself Said:
 - In 3:19 - “This Is The Condemnation, That Light Is Come Into The World, And Men Loved Darkness Rather Than Light, Because Their Deeds Were Evil!”
 - And - Though All Of This Could Be Said:
 - About Those Who Threatened Jesus’ Life:
 - He Still Said To His Disciples:
 - In 11:7 - “Let Us Go Into Judea Again!”
 - Why Would He Do This!
 - Because - He Still Had:
 - More Work To Do There!
 - He Still Had:
 - More Light To Shine There! And:
 - He Still Had:
 - More Souls To Save There!
 - After All - This Is Why Jesus Came!
 - It Was So That:
 - “The People That Walked In Darkness” Might See His “Great Light!” (Isaiah 9:2)
 - It Was So That:

- Those Who “Dwell In The Land Of The Shadow Of Death” Might Have His Light Shine “Upon Them!”

- And So - Along With:
 - His Counsel & Comfort - Jesus:
 - Challenged Them & He Challenges Us:
 - To - “Let Your Light So Shine Before Men!” (Matthew 5:16)
 - Because - As He Also Said:
 - “Ye Are The Light Of The World! A City That Is Set On An Hill Cannot Be Hid! Neither Do Men Light A Candle, And Put It Under A Bushel, But On A Candlestick; And It Giveth Light Unto All That Are In The House!” (Matthew 5:14-15)
 - Stop Having Reservations About God’s Plan:
 - As Jesus’ Disciples Did!
 - Instead Learn The Lesson:
 - About His Light!
 - And - Walk In His Light:
 - Through Faith In Him, Fellowship With Him, And Faithfulness To Him:
 - While It Is Still The Day!
 - But Then - In 11:11:
 - Jesus Repeats His Intention To Go:
 - But This Time - It Is In Connection:
 - With Lazarus & His Sicknes!
 - So - John Tells Us:
 - “These Things Said He!”
 - That Is - The Lesson He Just Taught! John Writes As An Eyewitness! But Then He Adds:
 - “And after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep!”
 - Maybe The Disciples Caught:
 - A Little Bit Of What Jesus Was Teaching Them:
 - Or - Maybe Not! But:
 - When Jesus Tells Them That:
 - Lazarus Is Sleeping - But:
 - He Still Planned To Go Anyways:
 - We Then See A Desire For Some:

2. ***Relief From Jesus’ Plan:***

- By His Disciples!
 - So That They Wouldn’t Have To Return:
 - To Judea After All!
 - Since - As We Find In:
 - 11:12 - “Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well!”
 - Though They Were Probably:
 - Genuinely Relieved That:
 - Lazarus Was In The Process Of Getting Better!
 - They Were Probably:
 - Even More Relieved That:
 - They Might Not Need To Go:
 - After All!
 - But - When The Apostle John Remembered This Story:
 - As He Was Writing His Gospel:
 - He Finally Understood What Jesus Meant:
 - By What He Said In 11:11!
 - And So - He Adds:
 - In 11:13 - “Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep!”
 - In Other Words:
 - John Eventually Realized That:

- Jesus Was Teaching Them:
 - Another Lesson!
- But This Time - It Would Be:
 - A Lesson About Life!
 - Even True / His Life!
- And - He Does So:
 - Through A Living Parable:
 - About The Death & Life:
 - Of Their Friend Lazarus!
 - A Parable That:
 - Will Extend Even Further:
 - Into This Chapter!
- Because - Jesus' Return:
 - To Judea - In Order To:
 - "Awake" Lazarus "Out Of Sleep!"
 - It Was All To Teach Them & Us Something About:
- His Own Relationship:
 - With Sinners - Even With Those:
 - Who Were Walking In & Loving The Darkness:
 - Of This World!
 - It Was With Great Tenderness:
 - That Jesus Called Lazarus:
 - 11:11 - "Our Friend!"
 - There Was A Special & Close:
 - Connection Between:
 - Lazarus & Jesus!
 - Which We Learned From 11:3! "He Whom Thou Lovest!"
 - But - There Was Also A Special & Close:
 - Connection Between:
 - Lazarus & The Disciples!
 - And So - No Matter What:
 - The Danger - And Even:
 - No Matter What The Cost:
 - Jesus Wanted To Go & Be With:
 - His Friend!
 - And - He Wanted:
 - His Disciples To:
 - Feel What He Felt - And:
 - To Go Where He Was About To Go!
 - This Tells Us Something:
 - Of The Relationship That Jesus:
 - Still Has With Sinners!
 - Throughout His Ministry:
 - He Was Even Known As:
 - "A Friend Of Publicans And Sinners!"
 - This Did Not & This Does Not Mean:
 - That Jesus Condones Sin!
 - Not At All!
 - Instead - It Means That:
 - He Sought To Make Sinners:
 - His Friends - Through:
 - His Suffering & Sacrifice:
 - For Their Sins!
 - Their Salvation: (Faith)
 - From Their Sins! And:
 - Growing Sanctification:
 - Apart From Sin!
 - But - Jesus Came To Draw:

- Sinners To Himself - So That:
 - We Might Become His Friends!
 - Even As Abraham - When He Believed God - "It Was Imputed Unto Him For Righteousness: And He Was Called The Friend Of God!"
- Jesus Was Also Teaching His Disciples:
 - And Us - Something About:
- His Own Resolve:
 - To Save Sinners!
 - This Is Why Jesus Repeated Himself:
 - In 11:11 - And Said To His Disciples:
 - "But I Go!" / "I Am Going!"
 - No Matter What:
 - Reservations He Faced:
 - From His Disciples - Or:
 - What Resistance He Experienced:
 - From The Jews!
 - Nothing Was Going To:
 - Get In His Way:
 - To Go To Lazarus!
 - And - This Was Jesus' Intention:
 - From The Very Beginning!
 - Even - When He Was In Heaven:
 - From All Eternity:
 - He New That He Would Have To:
 - "Go" Into The World:
 - That He Would Create!
 - And - It Is Because Of:
 - Jesus' Eternal Resolve:
 - Do We, As Sinners, Have Hope!
 - But - Through This Living Parable:
 - Jesus Was Also Teaching Us Something About:
- His Own Reason:
 - To Leave The Glorious Light Of Heaven:
 - And Come To The Darkness Of This Earth!
 - It Was For The Same Reason:
 - That He Told His Disciples:
 - He Was Going To Go To Lazarus!
 - It Was So That:
 - 11:11 - "I May Awake Him Out Of Sleep!"
 - Of Course - We Know That:
 - Jesus Was Talking About His Death!
 - But - At The Time:
 - His Disciples Did Not Know That!
 - But - When Someone Is Asleep:
 - Even Though They May Be Sick:
 - There Is Hope That:
 - Soon They Will:
 - Wake Up - And Be Able To Walk Again & Work Again!
 - Certainly - This Was The Desire & Hope:
 - Of His Sisters - As Well As:
 - The Disciples!
 - But - Jesus *Did* Know:
 - That Lazarus Was Dead!
 - He Even Says So In 11:14:
 - Plainly & Clearly:
 - "Lazarus Is Dead!"
 - But Still - Jesus Could:
 - Wake Up Him Up - Even From The Dead!

- After All - From 8:12 - Jesus Said “He That Followeth Me Shall Not Walk In Darkness, But Shall Have The Light Of Life!”
 - The Light Of Jesus:
 - Brings Forth:
 - The Life Of Jesus!
 - And Lazarus Was To Become:
 - An Object Lesson:
 - To Prove His Point & His Power!
 - Lazarus Was The Reason:
 - Jesus Came Into This World!
 - And So Are You!
 - To Call You Out Of Darkness & Into His Marvelous Light! (1 Peter 2:9)
 - And - To Quicken You From Death Through The Power Of His Life!
 - And - Jesus’ Power To Do All This:
 - Is The Reason For What We Find Next:
 - In 11:15 - Which Is:
 - His Own Rejoicing!
 - Because - Immediately After Jesus Said:
 - “Lazarus Is Dead!” - Almost In The Same Breath:
 - He Says - “And I Am Glad!”
 - Now - How Could Jesus:
 - Rejoice - In The Face Of:
 - The Death Of His Friend!
 - The Doubts Of His Disciples!
 - And Even - The Danger Of:
 - Of His Return To Judea?
 - Jesus Rejoiced Because:
 - He Already Knew:
 - The “End From The Beginning!” (Isaiah 46:10)
 - Didn’t He Just Prove This:
 - By Telling Them That:
 - “Lazarus (Was) Dead?”
 - So - Jesus Was Glad & Rejoiced:
 - Because He Knew That Everything:
 - Would Result In:
 - God’s Glory!
 - Just As He Said It Would:
 - Back In 11:4:
 - “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby!”
 - But - Jesus Was Also Glad & Rejoiced:
 - Because He New That Everything:
 - Would Further Result In:
 - Their - His Disciple’s - Good!
 - Which Is Why He Could Say:
 - 11:15 - “I Am Glad *For Your Sakes* That I Was Not There!”
 - Jesus Always Sought Out:
 - What Was Best For:
 - His Followers & His Friends!
 - But - Jesus Was Also Glad & Rejoiced:
 - Because He Knew That:
 - Through What They Were About To Witness:
 - They Would Experience Even More Growth:
 - In Their Faith & Belief In Him!
 - Jesus Told Them That:
 - He Waited Until Lazarus Died:
 - 11:15 - “To The Intent Ye May Believe!”
- And So - He Repeats His Invitation:

- Once Again:
 - “Nevertheless, Let Us Go Unto Him!”
- Proving Once Again:
 - That Jesus Did Hear:
 - The Message From Martha & Mary!
 - That Jesus Did Care:
 - Because He Loved Them! And:
 - They Would Soon See:
 - That Jesus Would Help Them & Heal Their Brother:
 - From The Greatest Disease Ever To Inflict Mankind – Death!
- Jesus Wanted His Disciples:
 - To Join Him - And Learn The Lesson:
 - About His Life!
 - The Resolve Of His Life!
 - The Reason For His Life! Even:
 - The Rejoicing Of His Life!
 - To Bring About A New Relationship:
 - With Sinners - So That:
 - They Might Become His Friends!
- We Need To Keep Learning - And:
 - Relearning This Lesson As Well!
 - That The Gospel Is All About:
 - God’s Glory! And:
 - Our Good & Growth:
 - In Jesus!

Conclusion:

1. So - You Have To Wonder:
 - Did His Disciples:
 - Learn The Lessons:
 - That Jesus Was Trying To Teach Them:
 - In These Verses?
2. Perhaps They Learned:
 - Something - Though They Still Had:
 - More To Learn About:
 - Jesus’ Light & Life!
 - But I Think We Can See:
 - A Change - In At Least One Of The Disciples:
 - Thomas! Who:
 - No Longer Has Reservations About:
 - Following Jesus Back:
 - To Judea!
 - 3. Instead - He Takes The Lead:
 - And - As We Are Told In:
 - 11:16 - “Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him!”
 - From The Context - Thomas Is Not:
 - Talking About Dying With:
 - Lazarus - But:
 - Dying With Jesus!
 - So - The Lord’s Words - At Least:
 - Empowered Thomas:
 - To Have A Renewed Loyalty:
 - To The Lord!
 - Not Letting Jesus To Go On Ahead Without Them!
 - His Words Also:
 - Encouraged Thomas:
 - To Have A Renewed Love:

- For The Lord!
 - Even Willing To Lay Down His Life For Him:
 - If It Came To It!
 - “Thomas Looked Death In The Face And Chose Death With Jesus Rather Than Life Without Him!” (Leon Morris)
- 4. So - In Some Measure:
 - Thomas - And Eventually:
 - The Rest Of The Disciples:
 - Realized That Jesus’ Ministry Was Taking Him Back Into Judea!
 - And - For Better Or For Worse:
 - They Would Follow On!
 - Because:
 - The Light Of Jesus - And:
 - The Life Of Jesus:
 - Just Had To Spread!
- 5. Remember These Lessons:
 - When You Feel:
 - Any Reservation To - Or Even:
 - A Desire For Relief From:
 - God’s Plan!
 - And - Like Thomas:
 - Out Of Love & Loyalty To Jesus:
 - Follow On!

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***