

“When Trouble Comes”
John 11:1-6

Introduction:

1. In The Time We Have Left:
 - Lets Head In Our Bibles Again:
 - To The Gospel Of John!
 - Where We Will Begin A New Chapter:
 - That Is, Perhaps, One Of The Most Familiar Chapters & Stories:
 - About Jesus In All Of The Gospels!
2. Because - In John 11:
 - We Find The Account Of:
 - Jesus Raising His Good Friend & Follower:
 - Lazarus From The Dead!
 - Now - Even Though:
 - We Might Know About This Event:
 - In The Life Of Our Savior:
 - Quite Well!
 - We Are Going To:
 - Try To Approach It:
 - As If We Are Hearing About It:
 - For The Very First Time!
3. And So - This Morning:
 - We Are Going To Begin:
 - By Reading & Looking At:
 - Just The First 6 Verses:
 - Where We Learn About A Time When:
 - Trouble Came To Some Very Close Friends Of Jesus!
 - John 11:1-6:
 - “Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. / (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) / Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. / When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. / Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. / When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was!”
4. Now, It Is Clear From These Verses:
 - That Martha & Mary & Lazarus:
 - Were All Followers Of Jesus - And:
 - Were All Close Friends Of Jesus!
 - And - We Will See Just How Close They Were As We Make Our Way:
 - Through This Chapter!
5. But - Just Because:
 - They Were Close To Jesus:
 - Did Not Mean That They Were Immune:
 - From Trouble & Trials:
 - Coming Into Their Lives!
 - And - What Was True For Them:
 - Is Still True For Us!
 - Though, As Christians, We May Be Close To Christ:
 - Trouble Still Often Finds Us!
 - And So - The First Thing That We Can Learn:
 - From This Brief Introduction To These:
 - Believers Is:

* When Trouble Comes Into Our Lives As Christians:

1. ***It Is A Common Thing!***
 - It Is Even:
 - A Very Normal & Natural Thing:

- As We Live In This:
 - Fallen World!
- And - This Is What We Find:
 - In The First 2 Verses Of This Chapter!
 - When Trouble Comes To Christians:
 - It Is A Common Thing!
 - Because - Here We Find A:
- Real Problem!
 - 11:1 - "Now A Certain Man Was Sick!"
 - Now - We Are Not Told Anything:
 - About When:
 - This Man Became Sick! Or:
 - About Why:
 - This Man Became Sick! Or Even:
 - About What:
 - This Man's Sickness Was!
 - But - It Is Clear That:
 - Whatever It Was:
 - It Was A Real & Serious Problem:
 - That Must Have Been Something:
 - That Came Upon Him Suddenly!
 - And - This Real Problem:
 - Was & Still Is A Common Thing:
 - To All Of Us In Our Fallen, Human Condition!
 - Its Something We Know About All Too Well! Family / Church / Friends!
Covid!
 - And - This Real Problem:
 - Was Faced By Some:
 - Real People!
 - In This Verse - We Are Introduced To:
 - The Main Characters Of This Story!
 - Lazarus!
 - Mary! And:
 - Martha!
 - Now - The Only Other Place:
 - Where We Read About Two Of These Three Is In:
 - Just A Few Verses Found In The Gospel Of Luke - 10:38-42!
 - But - As We Just Read:
 - These Three Were Siblings:
 - And - May Have Been:
 - The Only Family Each Of Them Had At The Time!
 - And So - When One Member:
 - Of The Family Faced Trouble:
 - They All Faced It Together!
 - When One Member:
 - Of The Family Suffered:
 - They All Suffered Together!
 - And This Too Is Still Such A Common Thing:
 - For Us Today!
 - People Often Suffer Together!
 - Even People You Don't Know!
 - When You Hear Of Their Problem & Plight:
 - You Feel For Them & With Them! Or At Least - We Should!
 - But - We Further Learn That:
 - These Real People:
 - Were From A:
 - Real Place!
 - Even From The Town Of Bethany!

- For The Lord - Like Mary Had:
 - Yet, They Continue To Experience All Kinds Of:
 - Real Problems!
- And - This Is Why:
 - At The End Of 11:2 - The Problem Is Repeated:
 - “Whose Brother Was Sick!”
 - Which Makes Us Wonder:
 - “Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?”
- Because - Even Though:
 - Trouble Is Such A Common Thing:
 - It Doesn’t Make It:
 - An Easy Thing - For Any Of Us!
 - But - When We Come To:
 - 11:3 - We Discover That:

* When Trouble Comes Into Our Lives As Christians:

2. *It Can Also Be A Cultivating Thing!*

- That Is - It Can Be:
 - What God Uses To:
 - Grow You As A Christian:
 - So That You Yield Even More Fruit:
 - For Him!
 - Because - When Trouble Comes:
 - As A Child Of God:
 - You Can Have:
- A Different Response:
 - To Your Trouble!
 - Whatever Form It May Take!
 - A Different Response:
 - Than Those Who Do Not Know The Lord!
 - Your Response Can Be:
 - Just Like The Response:
 - Of Martha & Mary In 11:3:
 - “Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick!”
 - When Trouble Came:
 - These Sisters Knew:
 - What They Could Do - And:
 - Who They Could Reach Out To & Appeal To!
 - Even Jesus!
 - So - They “Sent Unto Him” A:
 - Simple, Short, But Urgent Message!
 - Which - In Effect:
 - Was A Prayer!
 - They Knew They Could Call Out To Jesus:
 - Because Of His Ability!
 - He Was, After All:
 - Their “Lord!”
 - Now - They May Not Have Known Yet:
 - Everything That This Title Meant:
 - When It Came To Jesus!
 - But - They Did Know That:
 - In The Face Of This Trouble:
 - Jesus Could Help!
 - After All - He Had Already Shown:
 - His Power & Ability:
 - Many Ways In His Ministry!
 - Over Nature / Spirits / Men / Even Death!

- They Also Knew They Could Call Out To Jesus:
 - Because Of His Attention!
 - When They Said - "Behold" - They Knew That Such An Urgent Request:
 - Especially From His Disciples:
 - Would Not Go Unheeded By The Lord!
 - He Would "Behold!" He Would Take Notice! He Would Pay Attention!
- They Also Knew They Could Call Out To Jesus:
 - Because Of His Affection!
 - In Their Message - They Refer To Their Brother As:
 - "He Whom Thou Lovest!"
 - In Some Way - These Sisters:
 - Knew That Jesus Loved Their Brother:
 - In A Very Close & Personal Way!
 - They Knew That:
 - Lazarus Was Special:
 - To Jesus!
- They Also Knew They Could Call Out To Jesus:
 - Because Of His Activity!
 - Didn't Jesus Have A Special Desire:
 - To Minister To The Needs Of:
 - Those Who Were Blind & Deaf & Lame & Sick?
 - Isn't This Why Jesus:
 - Came Into This World?
 - To Meet All The Needs:
 - That Were The Result Of The Fall?
 - Spiritual & Physical?
 - Even Death Itself!
 - What A Response These Sisters Had!
 - A Response Of Faith Through Prayer!
 - And Yet - We Do Not Find Any Request Or Demand For Jesus:
 - To Come Or To Do Anything!
 - They Just Believed:
 - When Jesus Knew Of Their Trouble:
 - He Would Do What's Best!
 - And - This Is Still The Great Opportunity:
 - All Christians Have:
 - When Trouble Comes!
 - You Can Make Your Appeal To The Lord!
 - Because Of His Ability / Attention / Affection / Activity!
 - "What A Friend We Have In Jesus, All Our Sins And Grievs To Bear! What A Privilege To Carry Everything To God In Prayer!"
 - We Can Have This Kind Of Response:
 - When Trouble Comes!
 - Do We?
 - And We Can - Because Also:
 - There Is:
 - A Different Reason:
 - For Your Trouble!
 - Which Is What We Find Next In:
 - 11:4 - Because - "When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby!"
 - Though Martha & Mary & Lazarus:
 - Did Not Yet Understand This:
 - We Can!
 - There Is Always A Higher Reason:
 - For The Trouble You Face:
 - When You Are A Believer In & Follower Of The Lord!
 - The Trouble You Go Through:

- May Be Common To Men - But:
 - God Has A Greater Purpose For It In Your Life!
- The Reason?
 - “For The Glory Of God!”
 - To Reveal & To Display:
 - More Of His Glory!
 - What Is God’s Glory?
 - Everything That Reveals God:
 - As God! As Who He Is!
- And So - Even Trouble:
 - Can Reveal More Of:
 - The Glory Of God’s Greatness - And:
 - The Glory Of God’s Goodness!
- The Glory Of God’s Greatness:
 - Can Be Seen In That:
 - Jesus Himself Knew That Lazarus Sickness Was Not “Unto Death!”
 - With These Words - Jesus Reveals Both His Omniscience & Omnipotence! But Also:
- The Glory Of God’s Goodness:
 - Can Be Seen In That:
 - The Miracle That Will Take Place In Bethany Will Result In:
 - 11:4 - “The Son Of God” Being “Glorified” Even More!
- Remember This Whenever:
 - You Face Trouble In Your Life!
 - As A Christian - There Is Always:
 - A Greater & Higher Reason For It! It Is So That:
 - God’s Glory May Be Revealed In & Through & To You! Believe This!
- But - Even Further - Remember That:
 - There Is:
- A Different Reality:
 - In Your Trouble!
 - And - This Is What We Find Next In:
 - 11:5 - Where John Makes This Comment:
 - “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus!”
 - Even Though Trouble:
 - Might Make You Think That:
 - You Are Not Loved:
 - By The Lord!
 - The Reality Is:
 - Just The Opposite!
 - He Continues To Love You!
 - With His Everlasting Love!
 - A Love That Has No End - And:
 - A Love That Knows No Bounds!
 - It Is A Love That Is Personal & Individual & Very Deep!
 - Remember That:
 - There Is Nothing That Is Able:
 - To Separate You From The Love Of God:
 - Which Is In Christ Jesus Our Lord!
 - Romans 8:38-39 - “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature!”
 - When You Go Through Trouble:
 - Do Not Doubt God’s Love For You!
 - The Love Of The Father / Son / Holy Spirit Is Real!
 - And - This Love Will Lead To:
- A Different Resolution:
 - To Your Trouble!

- Which Is What We Find Next In:
 - 11:6 - “When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was!”
- Now - At First - Jesus’ Response Here:
 - Seems To Fly In The Face Of:
 - Everything Else We Just Looked At:
 - In These Verses!
 - But Does It?
- Did Jesus Hear:
 - The Appeal Of:
 - Martha & Mary For Lazarus:
 - Their Brother?
 - Yes! Because We Are Told:
 - “When He had Heard Therefore That He Was Sick!”
 - So - Their Prayer & Appeal Did Not Fall On Deaf Ears!
- Could Jesus Help:
 - This Family Of Siblings:
 - With Their Problem?
 - Yes! Because He Was & Is:
 - The “Lord!”
 - What He Had Done For Others:
 - He Could Certainly Do For Them!
- Did Jesus Care:
 - About The Plight:
 - Of Lazarus & His Sisters?
 - Yes! Because Of What John Just Told Us:
 - In 11:5 - “Jesus Loved” Them!
- In Fact - This Verse Reveals That:
 - It Was Because Of & Out Of:
 - Jesus’ Love That:
 - “He Abode Two Days Still In The Same Place Where He Was!”
- This Is Why We Have The Word:
 - “Therefore” In This Verse!
 - In Other Translations - It Is “So!”
 - But - There Is A Close Connection Between Verse 5 & Verse 6! Between The Love Of Jesus & Even The Delay Of Jesus!
- It Can Even Be Expressed In This Way:
 - Jesus Loved Them - Therefore / So:
 - He Stayed Where He Was:
 - For Two More Days!
- In Other Words:
 - Because Jesus Loved Martha & Mary & Lazarus:
 - He Waited - So That:
 - They Might See & Experience God’s Glory:
 - In An Even Greater Way!
 - And So - The Final Resolution:
 - Of Their Trouble:
 - Would Be Far Greater & Better:
 - Then They Could Have Anticipated!
- And - This Too Is What You Can Trust In:
 - When You Go Through Trouble!
 - The Greater The Obstacle:
 - The Greater The Opportunity:
 - For God’s Glory To Shine Upon You!
 - And - This Is Love!
- And This Is Why:
 - When Trouble Comes:
 - It Can Be A Cultivating Thing:

- In Your Life As A Christian:
 - Even Though It May Be Such A Common Thing:
 - In This World!
- The Gospel Sanctifies:
 - Even Our Troubles In Life!
 - So That God's Glory & God's Grace:
 - May Be Amplified:
 - To Us!
- This Is Something The Lord Even Told:
 - The Apostle Paul - When He Was Dealing With:
 - The Trouble Of A "Thorn In The Flesh!"
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9:
 - "My Grace Is Sufficient For Thee: For My Strength Is Made Perfect In Weakness!"

Conclusion:

1. So - When Troubles Come:
 - Even When They Are "Common To Man!"
 - You Can Have A Different Response:
 - To Those Troubles!
 - Like The Sisters Of Lazarus:
 - Take It To The Lord In Prayer!
 - Because - In Christ:
 - There's A Different Reason:
 - For Your Trouble!
 - God's Own Glory!
 - There's A Different Reality:
 - In Your Trouble!
 - God Loves You! And:
 - There's A Different Resolution:
 - To Your Trouble!
 - Something Far Greater & Better Than All You Could Ask Or Even Think!
(Ephesians 3:20)

*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*