

JOHN 11:1-4
THE GLORY OF GOD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 11 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Now, remember last time we looked at the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and His love, His compassion towards His sheep, you and me.

This morning we are going to see the glory of God and what that is all about.

Now that may shock some of you because, for the most part, I think most of us are familiar with this chapter as we see Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, I hope I didn't ruin the end of the story for any of you.

But there is much more to this chapter than just the raising of Lazarus from the dead as we will see over the next few weeks.

This is the last miracle in the Gospel of John, the last of seven that John gives to us. But keep in mind that Jesus did many more miracles that are mentioned in the other Gospels. And the reality is, He did many more miracles than are recorded here in the Bible.

Remember what John said in John 20:30-31, "**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**"

John, or specifically the Holy Spirit, picked out seven miracles that are written for us in the Gospel of John, including raising Lazarus from the dead.

Why did John do that or again, why did the Holy Spirit do that?

We are told the main reason for this. That the person reading this Gospel may come to saving faith in Jesus.

That is why we tell people to read the Gospel of John because the main purpose for this Gospel, like I have said, is that the person would come to saving faith by believing in Jesus!

We also see this in John 21:25, where John tells us, **“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”**

Not only were these specific miracles done by Jesus and recorded by John so that a person may come to saving faith, but Jesus did so many miracles that John could not write them down, there are not enough books in the world that could contain them!

When we think of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, I think we can rightly say that this is the greatest miracle of Jesus, besides raising Himself from the dead.

The reason I say that is that Lazarus, unlike some of the others that Jesus rose from the dead, was dead for four days before he was raised from the dead!

Now as we read this story, we may be thinking of how much love the Good Shepherd is showing to Lazarus, to Mary and Martha, his sisters, to family and friends by doing this.

I don't think that is the point of this story. You see, the reason Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead is to bring glory to God and that is the title of our study this morning – ***THE GLORY OF GOD!***

I think today we have lost respect for God and when that happens, all that you do, you are not bringing glory to God.

And when I speak of losing respect for God, I mean that we do our own thing, we ignore what God has said in His Word and yet, we say we love Him, and we honor Him. That is not true!

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

Everyone seems to have an opinion.

In our day and age, we have become an over-opinionated society that indulges in garnering attention. Many of the things we do and say are merely for effect, and we often fail to really consider the weight of our words.

At the heart of our issues is a selfish mindset that has permeated through our society and grown more pronounced with time.

But during an age where everyone has something to say, not many people appear to have high esteem or respect for God and what he says. In many ways, God has become an afterthought to a nation that actually separated itself to worship him.

As God has been purposely pushed out of our society, we have begun to lack the necessary wisdom to confront the numerous challenges facing our country. How did a country that used to cling to God's laws fall so far away from him that it now chooses to dismiss nearly everything he has commanded?

For the first time in our country's history, a good percentage of American's have no respect for God. Even many of the people that say they love him are more interested in serving their own interests instead of extending his love and grace to this cold world.

Many people would rather put a religious slant on God's commands, to ensure they continue to fit into the norms of our ever changing society. But as we continue to evolve and change, it begs the question: "Is there anyone who isn't ashamed of God?"

When it comes to politics and policy, we say there is no place for him. Yet when our failed policies lead to chaos and distress, we are quick to throw up our hands and wonder out-loud why he didn't intervene. . . .

If there is anything left to stand for, it is him. He is worthy of our praise and our respect. And in everything we do, we should be doing our best to represent God as his ambassador.

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In other words, do our words and our actions match up to what God has said in His Word or are our lives a façade where we are playing the role of a Christian, but our lives truly don't match up, they don't honor God! That is a difficult one and we all can probably take a deep look into our heart as we look at God's Word and see how we are doing.

And if what we are saying and doing don't match up, then repent and get right with God. He is not going to disown you, but He will convict you.

The Good Shepherd is calling out to all of us to follow Him and if you are walking in your own direction, listen to His voice and follow Him!

Again, we are going to look at ***THE GLORY OF GOD*** and how that glory is manifested in our lives unto Him!

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into three main points and they are,

THE LOVE OF MARY – JOHN 11:1-2

THE PROBLEM – JOHN 11:3

THE GLORY OF GOD – JOHN 11:4

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 11, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***THE GLORY OF GOD!***

JOHN 11

VERSES 1-2

Bethany was located on the east side of the Mount of Olives about two miles from Jerusalem and this is where the friends of Jesus lived; Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Because their home was close to Jerusalem and Jesus had a close relationship with Lazarus, Mary and Martha, He would frequently spend time there to get away from all the pressure He faced in Jerusalem, or just to spend the night there to get some rest.

Now, because of this relationship, Mary and Martha send news to Jesus that His friend, Lazarus, their brother, is very sick.

The Greek word for “**sick**” is *ASTHENEIO*, (as-then'eh'-o) and it speaks of being “***deathly sick.***”

This was not a common cold, Lazarus was dying and that is why Mary and Martha sent someone to tell Jesus about their concern, that His friend was sick.

There was nothing that they could do except come to Jesus and ask for help. Which is interesting to me because the name Lazarus, which is a shortened form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, means “***God has helped***” or “***helped by God.***”

And guess what? That is exactly what we will see over the next few weeks, God is going to help this man, actually raise him from the dead!

But for Mary and Martha, no doctor, no medicine, there was nothing that could help their brother, except for Jesus as I have said!

What is interesting is that they didn't tell Jesus what to do. They didn't tell Jesus how He should heal him; they are just letting Him know of a need they have.

I think that is a powerful and important lesson for us to learn. We should not be telling God what to do. Yes, we are to give Him our requests, what is upon our heart, and then leave it at His feet to deal with. You see, He will do what is best.

At this point Jesus was about a day's journey away from Bethany, in Bethabara some 20 or so miles away in the area of Perea. (John 1:28; John 10:40)

Also, Mary and Martha, in speaking of Jesus and His relationship with their brother Lazarus said, "**Lord, behold, He whom you love is sick.**" We see that in John 11:3.

The Greek word for "**love**" is PHILEO which speaks of a brotherly type of love, a friendship. That is how they saw it, but it is not how God sees it.

What do I mean by that?

Listen to what we are told in John 11:5, "**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.**"

The love that Jesus had for Mary, Martha and Lazarus was not a brotherly type of love, it was much more than that. Here in John 11:5 John tells us that this love that Jesus had for them was that **AGAPE** love or that unconditional love, the love He has for each of us!

Also, we see that John tells us that this is the Mary who anointed Jesus with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair!

John wrote this epistle in around 90 A. D. and thus, some 60 years after this event John remembers what this woman did. Her love for the Lord was remembered!

That is our focus of these first two verses – *THE LOVE OF MARY!*

Let me share the account with you from Mark 14:3-9, where we are told, **“And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.’ And they criticized her sharply. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.’”** (Also see – Matthew 26:6-13)

Jesus is in Bethany at Simon the ex-leper’s house, for Jesus healed this man sometime during His ministry, possibly the leper spoken of in Mark 1:44-45, we aren’t sure.

And here we see Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus gathered at Simon’s house for a meal. They probably knew Simon since they lived in the same town.

Also, as John tells us here in John chapter 11, it was Mary, the sister of Martha who broke this alabaster flask of costly perfume and poured it over Jesus, wiping His feet with her hair.

Keep in mind that this spikenard, this costly perfume may have been Mary’s dowry which she would have presented to her husband at the time of her marriage.

If that is the case, then what Mary was doing was giving up everything, even marriage to devote herself completely to the Lord.

In saying that, what a beautiful picture of worship we see here.

The love that Mary had for her Lord. She worshiped the Lord from her heart giving that which cost her something and before she could give, she had to break the flask or be broken, humble, and in the end her life took on the fragrance of Jesus!

What do I mean by that?

Simply, John tells us that Mary wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair, which was covered in this perfume and thus, the fragrance of Jesus was upon Mary.

May we be so close to Jesus that His fragrance emanates from our lives as well!

I am not just talking about knowing what the Bible says, which is important. But I am saying loving the Lord with all of our being! Living what we say we believe and what we know the Scriptures are telling us!

Let me give you this perspective.

I am sorry Julie; I am using you again in this illustration.

What if I knew that Julie was born in Canada, moved to Arizona around the age of three, was so smart she was valedictorian of her school, has two brothers and one sister, went to Arizona State University, and married me, besides many other things.

And I keep going over and over this information about Julie, but I don't spend time with her, I don't show her that I love her, how do you think she would feel?

She would not be happy with me!

Why, I know everything about her, why is she so upset with me?

Because she wants a relationship with me!

Isn't that true of our Lord, didn't He go to the cross of Calvary and die for our sins and was raised the third day so that we could have a relationship with Him?

Of course that is true! He wants us to know His Word, He wants us also to take what we know and live it in a relationship with Him!

May we take that time and spend it with Him, walking in the garden you might say as Adam did before the fall.

In Matthew 22:34-40 we are told, **“But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.’”**

The Sadducees tried to silence Jesus, but they were silenced by His Words.

So the Pharisees could not let Him get away with that, so here comes this lawyer from this group, a Scribe and his specialty was interpreting the Law.

He was probably the most learned and intelligent expert on scriptural and rabbinical Law in their ranks, and if anyone would be a match for Jesus they thought, this man would be the one.

Of all the questions that he could ask Jesus this Scribe asks Him, **“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”** For us that may seem kind of strange, but it was a hot topic amongst the religious leaders of Jesus’ day!

You see, they had come to the conclusion that there were 613 commandments in the Old Testament. They broke them down like this.

Of those 613 commandments 248 of them were positive, what you can do, and 365 were negative, what you can’t do.

Out of those 613 the question that was debated by these religious leaders was which one was the greatest?

Now how could this catch Jesus?

Because these religious leaders debated this for years and couldn't come to any conclusions and now if Jesus comes up and says that one carries more weight than the other, they would be able to condemn Him or so they thought!

But Jesus went right to the heart of the Law, the Shema and He quotes out of Deuteronomy chapter 6, part of the Shema, which means *“to hear.”* The whole portion goes like this, **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”** Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

The idea here is that God wants us to love Him with our complete being, that is the greatest commandment, and it comes out of the first Table of the Law.

And once you have the first and the greatest commandment down, once you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you can accomplish the second greatest commandment, loving your neighbor as yourself! That comes from the second Table of the Law and apart from getting your relationship with God right you will not be able to get your relationship with others in line.

Jesus said, **“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**

I love this verse because this is the key to what Jesus is saying here.

If our vertical axis with God is right, if we love God supremely, then our horizontal axis with man will be in line also.

Do you see the picture that emerges from this? It is a cross - all that God has said through the prophets and the Law hangs on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary!

You cannot love God supremely apart from Christ because apart from Christ man is at war with God.

You cannot love your neighbor as yourself because apart from Christ man is selfish!

That means that apart from the cross, apart from coming to Christ we cannot fulfill these words of Jesus and only by the power of God's Spirit working in us and through us can we live them out! It is only those who have been born again that can accomplish this and only by allowing Christ to do it through them by His Spirit!

Here's the point. If you are struggling with loving people. If you are putting on a show saying you love people and yet your heart is not right, then your relationship with God is off.

I am sure I have offended some people, but how can you say that you love God when you can't love the people that God has created in His own image? You can't.

What can you do?

Fall in love with Jesus all over again. Let His love fill your heart and mind and ***love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*** and that love that God has filled you with will overflow and your love for people will grow!

Now let me say this so you don't misunderstand what I am saying. God doesn't get mad at us or forsake us because we don't love Him like we should, but how important it is to draw close to Him each and every day and not only when things get bad!

Again, here in Mark, just picture this moving scene as Mary is pouring this oil on Jesus and then wiping His feet with her hair and what are the disciples of Jesus doing?

They are complaining about wasting this money on Jesus! I know, that doesn't sound good, but that is what they were doing.

They felt this could have been sold and the money given to the poor, but that was not really what one of the disciples was thinking.

Yes, all the disciples jumped in and felt this way, but Judas had another motive. You see, he was interested in the money because he controlled the money bag! He wanted the money for himself.

Have you ever felt, as you were serving the Lord, worshiping Him through your actions, that people were coming against you?

I am sure you have but look at what happens here as the disciples turn against Mary, Jesus steps in and stands up for her saying she has done a “**good**” or a “**beautiful**” thing.

Barclay points out, “**In the Greek there are two words for good. There is *agathos* which describes a thing which is morally good; and there is *kalos* which describes a thing which is not only good but *lovely*. A thing might be *agathos*, and yet be hard, stern, austere, unattractive. But a thing which is *kalos* is winsome and lovely, with a certain bloom of charm upon it.**”

Believe me, over the last twenty-seven years here at Calvary, I have had my share of people coming against me and what we are doing here. What did I do? I did what God called me to do, as difficult as it could be sometimes, because if I am following my Good Shepherd, I am moving in the right direction no matter what the crowds are saying!

That is a good lesson for us to follow, Jesus!

Secondly, Jesus is not being insensitive to the poor, but He is saying that we need to put Him first and everything else will fall into place.

Thirdly, there are a lot of people who talk about what they are going to do for the Lord but there is no action. But Mary stepped forward and put her words into action.

The fourth point is that Mary anointed Jesus' body for burial. How did she know? Maybe she believed what He was saying while the disciples didn't! And now her act of worship is left as a testimony of what true worship is all about!

Think about it, we are still reading what Mary did and studying what Mary did and it is just as Jesus said, "**Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.**" Mark 14:9.

And it was this Mary, along with her sister Martha, who sent word to Jesus that their brother was very sick, he was dying!

So what we see here is – ***THE LOVE OF MARY!***

As we read on, we will see, and we have talked about this already, but we will look at – ***THE PROBLEM!***

VERSE 3

Now you may be thinking, "***Come on Pastor Joe. We all know that Lazarus is sick, he is dying, so what's the big deal? Let's move on!***"

But by moving on we will miss a very important lesson for us.

You see, Mary and Martha did not come to Jesus saying, ***“Lord, Lazarus, you know him, the one who loves you so much is sick. You know all that he has done for you, fed you, cared for you, gave you a place to stay. He loves you so much and he is so sick, you have to do something for him!”***

Again, that is not what they said.

Notice what they told Jesus, **“Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”**

May we never forget that. His love for us is far greater than our love for Him. I know, that is a hard one to swallow, but isn't it true? Of course it is.

And yes, Mary and Martha said that Jesus had this brotherly love for Lazarus, ***PHILEO*** love, which is true. But God's love is far richer than that, for Jesus loves us with an ***AGAPE*** love or an unconditional love, as we read in John 11:5.

When we come to God may we do so based upon who He is – ***OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN!***

When we come to God may we do so based upon – ***HIS HOLINESS AND HONOR HIM ACCORDINGLY!***

When we come to God may we do so understanding that it is – ***HIS KINGDOM THAT IS COMING!***

And when we come to God may we do so understanding that it is – ***HIS WILL THAT WILL BE DONE HERE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!***

And notice that Mary and Martha did not have any commands or instructions, they just said that the one that Jesus loved was sick, he was dying!

And because they knew Jesus, they believed that He would come to their aide and help their brother! They knew His character and rested in that, and I pray that we too can know God that well that we lay our requests at His feet and pray for His will to be done, not ours!

And please understand that you don't have to beg God, sweet talk God, bribe God, or command God to help you!

You don't even have to go into all the fine details, you know, "*Lord, you know my problem and . . .*" and then you spend the next hour telling him your problem and how to rectify it!

Believe me on this one, I have seen God do things that I would have never even prayed for because it caused pain and hurt in my life. But then, looking back I see the hand of God doing what needed to be done and I thank Him for that!

God knows our problems, He knows what we are going through, we don't have to tell Him to fix it, but again, just lay your requests at His feet and let Him do what needs to be done!

Mary and Martha, that is all that they are asking for right now, that Jesus would come to see their brother!

And think about this. Can you imagine if it was our love for God that caused Him to answer our prayers?

I guess you would need a little devise to show how much you love Him and keep working on it until you reach that point and then pray! No, it is the love of God for us, His sheep, and He does as He wills in our lives! It is His will that becomes our will in our lives and that only happens as you spend time with Him and allow Him to work in you so He may work through you!

Make no mistake about it, God's power and intervention in our lives is always because of His love for us, which is constant, unconditional, and always acts and does for me what's best for my life, whether I understand it at the time or not.

Here's my point. Everything, and I mean everything that God gives to me and does for me is not because I am so great or that I love Him more than you do, it is all through His grace. I don't deserve anything and yet, He gives me so much and it just shows me how much He loves me and cares for me and the same goes for you.

When I was in Russia, in Ramenskoye, at the Calvary Chapel there, I taught at the homeless shelter. Their homeless shelter is called – **GOOD WORKS**.

And I don't even remember where I was teaching from, but I was talking about God and how much He loves us.

And I told them, "**God loves me the best!**"

And they were looking at me as that was translated, and they were a little startled, taken back you might say. And then I pointed to another person there and I said to that person, "**God loves you the best!**" and I went around the room to tell each of them that "**God loves them the best!**"

And you should have seen the smiles on their faces. They understood the love of God for them, and we should have that same understanding, that – **GOD LOVES US THE BEST!**

You see, it is important for us to know that no matter how fickle or inconsistent my love for Him is, it doesn't change the way He works in my life because it's **His** love for me that motivates everything He does in my life, not **my** love for Him.

And it is out of that love for us that we serve Him!

So we see – ***THE PROBLEM!***

Lazarus is dying and they want Jesus to understand this because He loves Lazarus!

Our next point, and the focus of the study will be – ***THE GLORY OF GOD!***

VERSE 4

Please understand that at this point Lazarus has already died. And no one else knew it except for Jesus.

Now, how do I know that Lazarus was already dead?

Think about it.

It was a one day's journey from Bethany to Bethabara.

Jesus is going to remain there two days before He begins His journey to Bethany.

And then it will take Him another day to get there.

Thus, as we will see, by the time Jesus reaches Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for four days!

That is why Jesus says that this sickness is not unto death even though, at this point, He is already dead.

Now I think I need to touch on this because some have a little confusion about God allowing sickness into this world.

We need to understand that God did not allow sickness, it was Adam's sin that brought it into the world and we see the effects of that today!

But why does God allow His children to get sick? Shouldn't we be healthy and strong and free of disease and trouble, affliction in our lives?

Why does God allow this?

I think there are two reasons.

The first is so that we can have compassion upon others, we can witness to them how God has seen us through these times. It is hard to relate to someone's suffering if you have never suffered!

Is that Scriptural?

You bet it is.

In II Corinthians 1:3-7 we are told, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.”**

Paul can speak of God being **“the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort”** because Paul experienced the mercy and comfort of God in his own life and thus was able to speak from personal experience to people going through similar situations.

You see, like it or not, you are not going to be able to give to others what you have not received yourself from the Lord.

And if we are honest with ourselves, we all have experiences in our lives that God has comforted us and seen us through. I am not saying it was easy, but He has seen us through and given us comfort through them.

And it is out of that we can come alongside others to help them, to share Jesus with them!

And it is not only for comforting others, helping us to grow as well, but to bring glory to God!

That is what Jesus said here in John, that this sickness won't be the death of Lazarus, even though he will die, but it is all about bringing glory to God – **“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”** John 11:4.

And I want to spend the rest of our time this morning looking at ***-THE GLORY OF GOD!***

What does that mean?

I think it is very difficult to describe this word, **“glory.”**

It would be like describing beauty. That is difficult to do. How do you describe to someone what beauty is who has never seen it before? You really can't. You can try, but you will come up far short. Also, what I see as beauty, you might not see as beauty.

But if I was to describe to someone who has never seen a baseball, I could do that. It is round. It is white and has red seams on it. It is about as big as a small apple or orange. You see, I can describe it.

But the word for **“glory”** in the Greek is ***DOXA*** and it speaks of honor, praise, worship. It carries with it the idea of heaviness!

When you understand who God is and who we are, it is a heavy matter because you see, as well as you can, the holiness of God and He deserves our worship, our praise, our lives! But the reality is, you can never understand the totality of who He is this side of heaven. We get a glimpse, but that is as far as it can go!

As someone put it, *“God is in a class by himself. He has infinite perfections, infinite greatness, and infinite worth.”*

Let me share some Scriptures with you and look at - ***THE GLORY OF GOD!***

We see the glory of God spoken of in Psalm 29:3, where we are told, **“The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The Lord is over many waters.”**

Here we see the heaviness of God, as He thunders in glory!

In Acts 7:2 we are told, **“And he said, ‘Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran.’”**

This high and exalted One, God appeared to Abraham!

Not only that but we see God as the King of Glory as Psalm 24:7-10 tells us, **“Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.”**

The focus of Psalm 24 is the *King of Glory* and His coming into the city of Jerusalem!

It is speaking of Jesus and His Second Coming.

Why did David write this Psalm?

Some feel that it is speaking of the time the Ark was being brought up to Jerusalem by David, from the house of Obed-Edom. That could be, we are not sure but David, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is speaking prophetically of the time when Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom here on earth.

When He returns, He will place his foot on the Mount of Olives and it will cleave in two, and He will pass through the Kidron Valley through the east gate and set-up His Kingdom which will never be destroyed - ***THE KING OF GLORY IS COMING!***

Now this glory, who is it for? Is it God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit?

Keep in mind that God is One and He is manifested in three distinct persons and thus, they all deserve our worship, our praise, our honor, they deserve the glory!

Let me show you what I mean.

First, in Ephesians 1:17 we see the glory of God the Father, **“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”**

And in II Peter 1:17 we are told, **“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”**

THE GLORY OF THE FATHER!

Next, we will see the glory of Jesus in I Corinthians 2:8, **“which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”**

THE GLORY OF JESUS!

And then there is the glory of the Holy Spirit, and we see that in I Peter 4:14, **“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”**

THE GLORY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

You see, let the Scriptures speak for themselves. God, manifested in three distinct persons, one God, all deserve our worship and praise and honor, they are to receive glory!

And I realize that we are going through a lot of Scriptures this morning and it may be difficult to keep up with me, and I am sorry for that. But I want you to hear and see that our God is holy, and He alone deserves our worship and all that we do should be for the glory of God. Let me show you what I mean.

In Matthew 5:14-16 we are told by Jesus, **“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”**

Think of it like this because Jesus is telling us that we alone are the light of the world and that can be confusing because the Bible teaches us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Let me explain it like this.

Think of a lantern. Without the light it is just a container that does nothing.

But when it is lit it lights up a room or campsite or wherever it is being used.

When we come to Christ, God indwells us, and that Shekinah glory that filled the Tabernacle and later on the Temple, is inside of us and as that light shines others see it.

Jesus is that light and we are the container, and we are called to shine the light of God, bring the Gospel message to the lost. We are not to hide our light but to let it shine.

Think about that. This world is very dark, and we have the light of Christ shining through us and we hide it, cover it up. That is wrong. We are to shine and as we do, as others see what we are doing in this world to bless people, our Father in heaven is glorified!

Let me share this story with you and it is not an easy one, but I want you to see how we are to view God and view people, no matter who they are!

We are told,

Tom Long, professor of Homiletics at Candler School of Theology, tells the story of striking up a conversation with a man on a plane. He said they shared the normal kind of nice chit chat, sharing what they each did for a living and sharing pictures of their families. When the man began to share with him this story:

He and his wife were parents of a 30-year-old son who when he was a teenager had been in an auto accident and who for 30 years has lived in a nursing home in a vegetative state. And to tell you the truth, he said, my wife and I had stopped loving him, it is hard thing to say, I know, but love is a responsive thing and he no longer respond to us. We still visited him, we still cared for him, but we no longer loved him.

The day that changed was the day we went to visit him, an ordinary day, a nothing special kind of day, when we opened the door to his room to visit him we found a stranger sitting beside his bed.

This stranger was wearing a clerical collar. We knew he must be some kind of minister or priest. As it turns out he was the pastor of a little Lutheran church from down the street who simply made rounds every day in the nursing facility.

When we went into the room he said this man was reading to our son a Psalm. I thought, “You fool he can’t hear you.”

Then he took my son’s hand and he had a prayer with my son, and I thought, “You idiot, he can’t feel that touch, he can’t hear that prayer. Don’t you know he’s just a vegetable?”

And then I realized, of course he knows, but he is viewing my son already in the glory of God, viewing my son as already healed, viewing my son as worth the love of Christ. He was seeing my son through eternal heavenly lens of faith. And it was then he said that we began to be able to love our son again.

- <https://bit.ly/3vkQP1W>

No matter what condition my family members would be in, I don't think I could ever stop loving them.

But what I want you to see is that this minister took the time to read the Bible to this young man who was in a vegetative state! He prayed with this young man who was in a vegetative state.

And to many, that is foolish. He can't hear. What is the point? He is just wasting time when he could use his time to speak to people that can hear him. And for many, they truly believe that this young man didn't understand what this minister was saying, or could he?

I honestly don't know but when I took care of patients who were unresponsive, some in a state like this man was in, I still talked with them like they could hear me.

And the point I want to make here is that this man was giving glory to God in what he was doing!

And even if this young man in this vegetative state could not hear this minister, this minister was demonstrating the love of God not only to this young man, but those who came into that room!

And that should be the passion of our lives, in all that we do we are giving glory to God!

Now let me also say this, and I have touched on it. What about when we are sick, what about when we have cancer, heart disease, a stroke, family problems, money problems, or whatever comes our way that handicaps us in a sense. What happens then?

How can we give glory to God when those things are happening to us?

Because God will use that in your life to bring glory to Him if you allow it.

Now we can complain, we can isolate ourselves from others, we may feel that we can't do anything because of what has happened to us, and the list goes on.

Or we can let the light of God that indwells us to shine from our lives and let people see that no matter what, in health or in sickness, in wealth or in poverty, whatever the case may be – *this little light of mine is going to shine for Jesus!*

And I will tell you this. The light you shine for Jesus in your infirmity will be brighter to others because it is easy to praise God when things are going well, but when they see that light of God shining in you during those difficult times, it will blow them away and they may want to know more of why you are shining!

We have seen this morning – ***THE LOVE OF MARY!*** And Mary's love for Jesus was deep, it was rich, she let go of her worldly things and her life permeated the fragrance of Jesus. What a great way to live out our lives, emanating the fragrance of Jesus so others would be touched!

We have seen this morning – ***THE PROBLEM!***

And here the problem was serious, Lazarus, Mary and Martha's brother was very sick, he was dying. And Mary and Martha send someone to go and get Jesus and they tell Jesus it is the one He loves and not that Lazarus loved Jesus, even though he did. God's love is so rich, it is so deep, it can't compare to our love for Him! Bring your requests to Him, don't tell Him how to handle them, but lay them at His feet and pray for His will to be done!

And lastly, we have seen this morning – ***THE GLORY OF GOD!***

And yes, as we will see over the next few weeks, raising Lazarus from the dead is the greatest miracle that Jesus performed in this Gospel of John.

But, as I have said, the greatest, the most important thing, is that all that Jesus did brought glory to God the Father!

And that should be something that we bring to God, glory! We should honor Him, praise Him, glorify Him for who He is in all that we do and all that we say!

Let me close with this. We are told,

Work is one way, perhaps even the main way, we can glorify God in this life.

This may sound confusing if you tend to think of glorifying God as what we do in church when we sing praises to God. No question, this counts as glorifying God.

But there is so much more to glorifying God than praising God, no matter how essential and wonderful this might be.

Let me use a personal illustration. I love it when my adult children want to spend time with me. I am doubly happy when they tell me how much they love me. These are, indeed, some of the sweetest moments of my life. But I wouldn't want Nathan and Kara to spend their whole lives doing this. My wife and I have raised them, not just to be with us and to express their love to us, but also and mainly to be responsible citizens, influential leaders, and faithful disciples of Jesus.

My children honor me when they work hard in school, when they mentor high school kids, stage manage plays, contribute to academic conversations, or write pieces that inform and inspire others.

To use language I would not ordinarily use, I am glorified when Nathan and Kara work, when they work hard, when they use well their gifts, when they excel at the tasks for which they are well suited.

Genesis 1-2 reveals that God made us to work. Thus, we glorify God when we do that for which we were made.

Moreover, when we work for God's glory, when we steward well all that God has given us for his purposes, we can enjoy God, sensing the joy he feels in us as we work.

To be sure, there are times when we ought not to work. And there will be times when we glorify God through the praise of our lips and the worship of our hearts. But God has created work as a chief means for us to glorify and enjoy him. This truth can change our lives, our workplaces, and our cultures.

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May we, as representatives of Christ, of containing God in us, having that glory in us, may it shine brightly through us and may others see it.

Like John the Baptist said, we want less of ourselves to be seen and more of Jesus to be seen in us. And the only way that will happen is when we die to self and as we die to self, people can see Jesus in us!

THE GLORY OF GOD!