



April 5, 2020
SERMON NOTES

John 10:24-25; 11:1, 3-17, 20-27, 33-45, 48; John 3:19; 20:31



I. Introduction

- A. We have all asked the question “Why would a _____ God allow bad things to happen?”
- B. John said “I saw God in a body co-exist with _____ people.”
- C. Jesus said “I didn’t just tell you I’m the messiah, I _____ you!”

II. The Sixth Sign: Raising Lazarus from the dead

- A. According to Jesus, bad things could happen to good people and it does not _____ God?
- B. Jesus said “apart from the author of _____, you will never understand life.”
- C. It was for our sake, that Jesus manufactures a _____.
- D. Jesus said “Just like Lazarus you’ll die, but you won’t die. _____ is simply a door.”

III. Seeing, believing, trusting

- A. Just like us, many in the story said “If he could have, he would have, but since he didn’t, he _____.”
- B. John’s formula = Seeing led to _____ that led to trusting.
- C. God didn’t _____ the evil; he placed it on Jesus so we would not perish but have eternal life.

Things I would like to remember about this message

Asbury Daily Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

At different points in our lives, many of us wonder why a good God would allow bad things to happen. And without a clear response, that dilemma could cause us to question God's existence altogether. The Gospel writer John documented an occasion where Jesus not only brought his friend Lazarus back to life but also demonstrated how God can exist in the midst of a world of evil and suffering.

Monday: John 11:17–45

- In verse 35, Jesus showed emotion about this situation. What does the fact that Jesus wept—even knowing Lazarus was about to be raised—say about him?
- Read verse 43. Imagine for a moment what onlookers would have been thinking after hearing Jesus say this. What words come to mind to describe this scene?
- What's your biggest takeaway from this story? What is something that sticks out to you about God when reading this?
- In your mind, how does the story of Lazarus address the question, "Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?"

Tuesday: Job 1:20-22, 42:1-8

In chapter 42, Job saw that he needed more than the "why" answers he asked God for (which never came). God said Job's friends' answers had "not spoken rightly" (Job 42:7). Have well-meaning friends ever given glib explanations of your suffering? How can God's caring presence with you help more than any explanation?

Wednesday: John 16:33-17:11, 14-17

Like Job's friends, many in Jesus' day and ours feel (maybe subconsciously) that "being good" is a kind of "suffering insurance." Jesus didn't see it that way. How do you react to his direct words: "in this world you will have trouble"? How can you live into the flip side of Jesus' words—to "take heart" because he's overcome the world?

Thursday: Romans 8:18-28

"Paul is not expressing a...superficial optimism that everything tends to everybody's good in the end." (Stott, *The Message of Romans*) Verse 28 does not say (as some think) that "everything" is good, but that God works for our good in everything. Do you have a personal example of when something that was tragic helped strengthen your faith?

Friday: John 11:4

What about the story of Lazarus can inspire you to have a better perspective in the midst of difficult circumstances?

MOVING FORWARD

God not only exists in the midst of a world that has evil and suffering—he chose to engage with it. God didn't eliminate the evil; he placed it on Jesus so we would not perish but have eternal life.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) good, B) evil, C) showed. IIA) disprove, B) life, C) sign, IID) Death. IIIA) can't, B) believing, C) eliminate.