



FAMILY OF CHAMPIONS  
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES  
WINNING, TRAINING & SENDING - TESTIFYING TO THE EXTRAVAGANT GRACE OF GOD

# House Fellowship BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

**FOLLOWING JESUS**  
**WOULD GOD FORGET THOSE HE LOVES?**

**BY PASTOR ELLIOT LAMPTEY**

## INTRODUCTION

- ✓ *Have you sometimes thought that God has forgotten about you? That maybe He does not love you?*
- ✓ *Has God ever delayed in answering your prayers? What runs through your mind as you wait on Him?*

Today we will look into a practical story of people who waited for Jesus to answer them. The period of waiting on Him may be the trickiest part, many things run through our minds, giving up becomes an option, sorrow, sadness and worrying kick in.

Let us see what happens when God delays to answer the prayers and requests of His people...



**Key Scripture:**  
**John 11:1-16**

---

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one **who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.**) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, **“Lord, the one you love is sick.”**

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, **“This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”** <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, **“Let us go back to Judea.”**

<sup>8</sup> “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, **“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”**

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, **“Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”**

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

John 11:1-16

---

We can get a rough picture of how Martha, Mary and probably Lazarus felt when Jesus did not show up.

In the chapter 10 of John, Jesus clearly states that He is God, that He is one with the Father and the people upon hearing this sought to stone Him. And now back to the chapter 11, we see Jesus was going back to that place in which they were going to stone Him. The disciples tried to discourage him from going there because they knew that they too would be stoned for being His followers.

Following this dialogue Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus is dead and has to go and wake Him up, then later exclaims His gladness of not being there.

It's like saying, you failed but you rejoice in it. That boy left you, but you rejoice. You got fired, but rejoice in it.

It is not easy to see Jesus, through this eye. We know Him to be the one who is always there for us in every situation.

- ✓ *What has always puzzled you about this story?*

Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This is a family that Jesus loved so much. But, when He heard that Lazarus (The one He loves) was sick, he waited two more days.

- ✓ *Does this make sense to You?*
- ✓ *Why would Jesus stay two more days?*

If someone you loved so much was sick, would you decide to wait two days to see them if they did not stay far from you? And if the family hears that you just didn't want to come, what would they do to you especially if you could help?

- ✓ *If it were you that were unwell, and your trusted person did not come and see you, how would that make you feel towards them?*

*His silence does not mean denial!!!*

- ✓ *Would God forget those He loves?*
- ✓ *How can God love us and yet delay in answering us?*

Lazarus was not a person that Jesus did not know, there was great friendship and a great love. He equally knew Mary for it was she who poured perfume on His feet and remember Martha cooked for Jesus the time He passed through their place. Jesus loved them and they too knew Him so well, to the point that they were calm as they spoke to Him about their brother's illness. They trusted Him so much.

- ✓ *Have you gotten to this point of trusting in the Lord that even in chaos, you are calm because you know Him?*

I pray that one day we reach this level of trusting and knowing the Lord as Martha and Mary did, that in the midst of trouble we'll be calm as we tell Him our troubles,

sorrows and whatever is weighing on our minds. Bible says, perfect love casts out all fear.

But Jesus decided to wait before going to and see them.

- ✓ *What do you think was on the mind of Mary and Martha during these 2 days, that they waited for Jesus to show up?*

They had most likely told the people around them that they have informed Jesus about the issue and that He would come through. With each day that passed, they got more and more sorrowful, until finally their brother died. They might have been tempted to blame Jesus for they knew that if He had been there, their brother would still be alive.

Mary and Martha might have gone through some of these passages about asking and receiving that Jesus spoke about when they were with Him:

---

*<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘**Friend**, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ <sup>7</sup> And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity<sup>[e]</sup> he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.*

*<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you: **Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.**<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*<sup>11</sup> “**Which of you fathers, if your son asks for<sup>[f]</sup> a fish, will give him a snake instead?** <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

*Luke 11:5-13*

---

In this passage, Jesus is comparing a bad friend to God.

- ✓ *What comparisons can you make from the passage and from your knowledge about God and earthly friends?*

The words that Jesus spoke might be confusing or contradicting at this point, because He says ask and it shall be given unto you. Mary and Martha asked Jesus to come but He did not show up when they expected Him to.

*His silence does not mean denial!!!*

---

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: “In a certain town there was **a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.** <sup>3</sup> And there was **a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’***

*<sup>4</sup> “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think,<sup>5</sup> **yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’**”*

*<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.<sup>7</sup> **And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”***

*Luke 18:1-8*

---

The vs 7 of this verse would really weigh hard on the hearts of Martha and Mary. If a wicked judge would give justice to a woman, how much more our God who gives justice to those who cry to Him day and night? Having this verse on their hearts, these ladies must have wondered why the God who gives justice to His chosen ones did not come through for them.

- ✓ *Have you prayed to God in this way (Day and night, with persistence)?*
- ✓ *If yes, do you only pray to him like that when you need something?*

## **WHY TRUST GOD WHEN HE DELAYS**

### **1. It will not end in death**

*<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”*

John 11:4

This sickness will not end in death. Even death will not end in death. Broken hearts will not end in death. Failure will not end in death.

---

*<sup>9</sup> Remember the former things, those of long ago;*

*I am God, and there is no other;*

*I am God, and there is none like me.*

*<sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning,  
from ancient times, what is still to come.*

*I say, ‘My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.’*

*Isaiah 46:9-10*

---

There is none like our God. They doctors may say that it will end in death but what God says is what stands. Remembered the kind of God you are dealing with.

✓ *What kind of God is He (from the verse)?*

He makes known the end from the beginning. But most times when we are in some situations, we find it hard to lift up our voice to speak to the God who establishes the end from the beginning, nothing is too hard or too big for Him. The end of your life is already with Him and not in other people.

✓ *Have ever thought that a human being (professor, parent, doctor) has the final say over your life?*

Elijah forgot the kind God He was dealing with and thought that he would die at the hand of a woman (Jezebel) and he ran away for his dear life. He thought the woman could plan His death or has the final say over his life. This was the man that was not made for death for God Himself carried Him to heaven. No one can determine your end except God.

## **2. It is for His glory**

The reason Jesus waited for 4 days was because back in the day, people believed that once someone died, their spirit lingered around for 3 days before it left definitively, but Jesus came after 4 days, when the people were sure that his spirit had left, so that the people know that He is God and His glory be known.

### 3. The delay is for your sake.

*14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and **for your sake** I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”*

*John 11:14-15*

Sometimes we are not even prepared for what God has for us in store. We pray for things that we too immature to handle. The delay is for our God.

- ✓ *What you ever received something you really wanted that easily became a burden because you realized you were not yet ready for it? (Share your story)*

He loves us and will not hold good from us, and if so, always remember it is for your sake.

---

*<sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning;<sup>[e]</sup> they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.*

*<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

*Hebrews 11:35-40*

---

These are the last verses that closes the chapter of faith. In the whole chapter, bible says people received what the asked for by faith, but towards the end we see that others did not receive what was promised.

The people who were tortured had faith but did not receive what was promised

- ✓ *Why?*

God had something better in store for them. They may be suffering but God had something better for them than what they were having faith for.

Never for one second think that God has left you or abandoned you, He is right by your side. Whatever the delay, it is for something better. That girl/boy left you, but it is for something better. You failed but God has something better in store for you.

Death to a Christian is sleep. God has something better.

## CONCLUSION

---

***27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
when it is in your power to act.***

***28 Do not say to your neighbor,  
“Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—  
when you already have it with you.***

*Proverbs 3:27-28*

---

God tells us not to withhold good from somebody to whom it is due, when it is our power to act. Do not rejoice in the suffering of others. Most of us are guilty of the verse 28.

✓ *How many times have you said you do not have, when in the actual sense you do have?*

God is telling us not withhold good from our friends, and if He is asking us not to do this, He too will not withhold good from us His friends.

---

***21 “Remember these things, Jacob,  
for you, Israel, are my servant.***

***I have made you, you are my servant;  
Israel, I will not forget you.***

***22 I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,  
your sins like the morning mist.***

***Return to me,  
for I have redeemed you.”***

***23 Sing for joy, you heavens, for the Lord has done this;  
shout aloud, you earth beneath.  
Burst into song, you mountains,***



*you forests and all your trees,  
for the Lord has redeemed Jacob,  
he displays his glory in Israel.*

*<sup>24</sup> “This is what the Lord says—  
your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:*

***I am the Lord,  
the Maker of all things,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who spreads out the earth by myself,  
<sup>25</sup> who foils the signs of false prophets  
and makes fools of diviners,  
who overthrows the learning of the wise  
and turns it into nonsense,  
<sup>26</sup> who carries out the words of his servants  
and fulfills the predictions of his messengers,***

*who says of Jerusalem, ‘It shall be inhabited,’  
of the towns of Judah, ‘They shall be rebuilt,’  
and of their ruins, ‘I will restore them,’*

*Isaiah 44:21-26*

---

Do not doubt the love of God. He stayed 4 days, but He still loved them. Remember these things, that He will neither forget you, your family, nor your country, because His servants are there, the people He loves are there. Remember how Lazarus was described “The one God loved”

May you have that description on your head, may they know that you are loved by the Lord, that you are God’s loved one, wherever you go. Not even our sins can stand in the way. May the Lord display His glory in you! Never forget that He will not forget you. He loves you. His love is stronger that whatever situation you may be going through.

The question is; How can we be better friends of Jesus?