

**problem:**

Salvation and suffering are not mutually exclusive  
 God wasn't mad at Job yet he suffered  
 God wasn't mad at Joseph yet he suffered  
 God wasn't mad at the Apostles yet they suffered  
 God wasn't mad at Christ yet He suffered

what is going on?  
 Gen 39-40 (41:1)

**Text:****Delay Caused Death**

John 11:1 ¶ **Now a certain man was ill**, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.  
 John 11:2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.  
 John 11:3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "**Lord, he whom you love is ill.**"  
 John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "**This illness does not lead to death. (is not to death)(strong BUT left out) It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.**"  
 John 11:5 ¶ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.  
 John 11:6 **So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.**  
 John 11:7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."  
 John 11:8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"  
 John 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone **walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.**  
 John 11:10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."  
 John 11:11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."  
 John 11:12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."  
 John 11:13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.  
 John 11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "**Lazarus has died,**  
**John 11:15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.** But let us go to him."  
 John 11:16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (a feeling of futility - and faith)  
*(11:2) "Mary who..." - Jn 12:3 (less about chronology more about theology)*  
*(11:3) He still loves (11:5-6) you and cares for you...even if the healing doesn't come*  
*(11:4-6) "not unto death but for glory" = the purpose is not the life of Lazarus or the love of Mary but the glory of God*  
*-Main Idea - the delay of God is for the display of God*  
*(11:9-10) more visible in His delay - John 7:1-10 (God is always right on time); 2:11; 9:3*  
*(11:15) "so that you may believe" -> His delay is to illustrate His statement in 11:25-26*

**Delay Caused Doubt**

John 11:17 ¶ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had **already been in the tomb four days.**  
 John 11:18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,  
 John 11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.  
 John 11:20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.  
 John 11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, **if you had been here**, my brother would not have died.  
 John 11:22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."  
 John 11:23 Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**"  
 John 11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."  
 John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,**  
 John 11:26 **and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**  
 John 11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."  
 John 11:28 ¶ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."  
 John 11:29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.  
 John 11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

John 11:31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

John 11:32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”**

John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.

John 11:34 And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

John 11:36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

John 11:37 But some of them said, **“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”**

*(27) -> do you believe this? Martha response (27) exemplifies the purpose of this gospel 11:27-> 20:31 - contrast doubt of people*

*(35) Luke 19:41-44 -wept at their unbelief*

### Delay Caused Display

John 11:38 ¶ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

John 11:39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”

John 11:40 Jesus said to her, **“Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” (11:4 -main idea)**

John 11:41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

John 11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this **on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” (CAME TO REVEAL A TRIUNE GOD)**

John 11:43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come out.”**

John 11:44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **“Unbind him, and let him go.”**

*(40) since she believed (11:27) she would see His glory -> (11:4) -*

*(43-44) He calls His sheep by name - John 10:1-3, 14, 26-28 -salvation belongs to God - John 1:9-13; Rev 7:10; 19:1*

### Main Idea:

The delay of God is for the display of God

### Implication:

- there is a purpose in suffering - even if you cannot see it - Rom 8:28
- even if the healing doesn't come - Rom 8:18

### Application:

do not be surprised when you suffer - 1 Peter 4:12-13

entrust yourself to God when you suffer - 1 Peter 4:19

even when the healing doesn't come

**Here are some articles for further study and discussion:** PLEASE USE THESE FOR SOME FURTHER DEPTH IN YOUR GROUP - either have folks read before the study and come ready to discuss or during the study take a few minutes to read and discuss if time permits.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/resurrection-and-life.html>

<http://www.gty.org/resources/positions/P09/when-the-healing-doesnt-come>

<http://www.barabbas.com/position-papers/> -> click on the paper: How to handle a Crisis with a Non-Believer