

God's Strange Ways

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 11:1-16.

B. The hardest problem to handle for some is what to do when God does something that we do not expect.

II. The death and resurrection of Lazarus.

A. The home of Lazarus was a love filled home. A love filled home is God's masterpiece.

B. The death of Lazarus was intended for the glory of God.

1. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead but He intended to stay despite this.

2. He stayed because He loved Mary and Martha.

3. God's delays are not God's denials.

4. Delays are signs of God's love because He stretches our faith.

III. What the episode reveals about how Jesus thinks.

A. He does not act because of fear.

B. He acts because of timing—He is orchestrating the whole procedure.

C. God has appointed a time for each of us, and if we are walking in the light there is nothing that can shorten or lengthen it.

IV. Death for Jesus is just an introduction to a greater experience for our loved ones—it is not a final farewell.

A. It is difficult to wait, but this is not the end of the story.

B. God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways.

C. We must never question God's ways or lose faith in His Word.

Application questions:

1. Why can God's delays be a sign of His love?

2. How did Jesus respond to difficult situations, and how can we model this?

3. What instances in your life do you feel like God is “delaying?” How do you take hope in God’s activity through Jesus’ example?
