



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Romans 8:19, Psalm 40:1,
John 11:1-44

DAY 1

Read [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#)

- **When have you been in a waiting season in your life? What was going on?**
- **When you enter a season of trouble, what do you do to help you get through it?**
- **How do you feel about life's seasons? What ways do you cope with the results?**

DAY 2

Read [Romans 8:19](#), [Psalm 40:1](#)

Many of you have been praying for God to do something; you know He can and yet, God has chosen not to. You might have asked, "Why hasn't God done something about it?" Or, "Why does God remain silent and not answer my prayer?" On Sunday, Pastor Bob pointed out, *"With God, a waiting season is never a wasted season."*

- **What does the phrase, "With God, a waiting season is never a wasted season" mean to you?**
- **In the waiting seasons you have experienced, what did you learn?**

DAY 3

Read [John 11:1-16](#)

- **Why do you think Jesus did not go to Lazarus as requested?**
- **In what ways do you feel Jesus should have responded? Why?**
- **In verse 4, Jesus says that which would come from Lazarus' death would bring glory to the Lord. What does that mean?**
- **What do you think it means to say, "God's delays are not necessarily God's denials?"**

DAY 4

Read [John 11:17-44](#)

Mary and Martha had wished Jesus to come and help cure their brother of a sickness but Jesus did not come as requested. Lazarus died. They were upset because the Lord was late. Part of this great miracle was to teach the sisters that their expectations were below what Jesus could deliver. Instead of healing Lazarus, Jesus brings him back to life.

- **When was a time you felt God showed up late and you were disappointed? Why did you feel that way?**

On Sunday, Pastor Bob said, "When you feel God is silent; God wants to do something *in* you before he does something *for* you." Think about a time when something happened, and the result you prayed for didn't happen. Instead, God did an amazing thing in or through your life. He did something "in" you, versus "for" you.

- **How did you see God show up in the situation you're thinking about? What did it mean to you?**

- **How do you think this applies to your life right now?**

DAY 5

If God always met your expectations, he'd never have the opportunity to exceed them. If Jesus had met Martha's expectations and cured her brother of the flu, then He would never have exceeded her expectations by raising Lazarus from the dead! *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"* (John 11:25-26)

Jesus is telling Martha the resurrection isn't an event. The resurrection is an "I." **"I" am...** resurrection and with me death no longer has a say. When I died for your sins something changed. Your physical body may die, but death cannot exclude you from living in the Father. **"I am resurrection and life!"** Mary and Martha expected a healing, but Jesus planned a resurrection! What they wanted was good, but what Jesus planned was better.

- **Has God ever exceeded your expectations?**
- **What do you think Martha and Mary felt when they learned Jesus was "the way?"**
- **Imagine what Lazarus' life was like after his resurrection. How do you think he approached his life after he was brought out of the tomb? In what ways is God resurrecting your life today?**

DAY 6

Reflect on your readings for this week and spend some time in prayer. Thank God for the times he has exceeded your expectations. If you are in a waiting season, ask God for patience.