



## Daily Verse and Comment

### [John 11:6-7](#)

(6) Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. (7) Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

### [John 11:11-15](#)

(11) 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." (12) His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." (13) Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. (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."

*New International Version*

[Jesus](#) already knew that Lazarus needed healing when the news reached Him. He assures His disciples that the sickness would not have death as its final result, however, [God](#) was permitting it for two reasons: the furtherance and accomplishment of the Father's purpose and His glorification, as well as the glorification of Jesus Himself.

His delay in going to Bethany must have puzzled His friends, especially when He allowed it to end in death. Yet, the distressed sisters were to learn that God's delays are not denials. Unrelieved suffering is sometimes necessary to perfect character—Jesus Himself “learned obedience by the things that He suffered” ([Hebrews 5:8](#)).

Mary and Martha were sure Jesus would come because He loved them. They had to learn that He was not neglecting them, but that His purpose in delaying was one of godly [love](#). It was probably emotionally painful for

Jesus to cause Mary and Martha grief, but He wanted to reveal to them—and to us—that despite our inclination to help our friends, even if we have power to do so, we must be guided by God's Spirit to prioritize His glory and our spiritual welfare, rather than gratify our feelings.

— Martin G. Collins

**To learn more, see:**

**[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: The Resurrection of Lazarus \(Part One\)](#)**

**Related Topics:**

[God Sets the Timing for Our Trials](#)

[Jesus Christ's Miracles Resurrecting Lazarus](#)

[Jesus Learned Obedience by Suffering](#)

[Learning from Suffering](#)

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