

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>

*Week 16 ~ Exploring John 10:22-11:57*

## **Personal Study Time:**

---

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

**Day 1: Read John 10:22-11:57 and then reread John 10:22-42. Now answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Compare this passage with the account of Jesus' visit to the temple in John 7 and 8. Write down every common feature between the two narratives that you can detect.
- What are the main issues between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in this passage? Try to summarize Jesus' responses to each of these issues in a paragraph.

**Day 2: Reread John 10:22-42 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- List on a sheet of paper all the events recorded in the Gospel that occur in the region of the Jordan. On the basis of this survey, how would you explain that Jesus was much more favorably received across the Jordan than in Jerusalem?
- Does it make any real difference if a person believes that Jesus is fully God or not? In what ways would the ministry of the Gospel of John be diminished in your life if you thought Jesus was

**Day 3: Reread John 11:1-44 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Describe briefly the effect of the previous passage (10:22-42) on Jesus' actions in this passage.
- What verse(s) hold(s) the key to understanding the theological purpose that Jesus had in raising Lazarus from the dead? Describe that theological purpose in a paragraph or two.
- Can you think of times in your life when God delayed in answering your requests? How did you feel at such times? Did you ever question God's care and concern at such times? How did you recover your confidence in God? What experiences confirmed your faith at those times?

---

<sup>1</sup> Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

**Day 4: Reread John 11:1-44 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook**

- Why do you think Jesus delayed two days before going to Bethany? Write a brief paragraph about each person, group, and event that was affected in some way by that delay.
- Based on the encounters in this chapter, try to write a brief character sketch of Mary and Martha. What are their respective personalities like? What is their respective attitude toward Jesus at the time of His visit in this chapter? How did they feel about His delay in responding to their request? What is the respective condition of their faith before Lazarus is raised? Explain.

**Day 5: Reread John 11:1-44 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook**

- Since Jesus knows that He has come to raise Lazarus from the dead (11), why is He troubled and sorrowful in verses 33-38? Explain your answer.
- Who do you relate to in this story? Mary? Martha? Lazarus? The mourners with Mary? The Jewish leaders? Do you think Jesus would weep or rejoice over your attitude toward Him right now? What changes in your attitude do you think He would like to make?

**Day 6: Reread John 11:45-47 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook**

- List all the events in the Gospel that provoked a reaction from the religious authorities. What reaction did the raising of Lazarus produce? In what way do you think the leadership's reaction to the miracle in John 11 was affected by perceptions of Jesus developed in earlier encounters? Please elaborate on your answer on the basis of specific passages in the Gospel itself.
- Please list on a piece of paper the chief concerns of the religious leaders that make them willing to eliminate Jesus? Would these have been legitimate concerns if Jesus had been a fraud? Explain.
- Have you ever opposed something that you knew deep down inside was right? Why did you do it? How did you come to acknowledge your self-deception? Can you think of some strategies for avoiding self-deception on a day-to-day basis?