



The Real
Super Bowl
John 11:1-45



Observations

- The struggles and the warfare that Christians battle with every day are not just about Christians fighting the devil, but about the battle between Two Superpowers fighting it out over you and me:

God Versus The Supernatural Forces of Good and Evil! Ephesians 6:12

- There is a battle going on for the hearts of men and women
- Who will you worship? Who will you serve?
- Remember who you serve is who you worship, Matthew 4:10

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

The Devil's Gameplan

- **Satan knows that God must be worshipped intentionally, John 4:24**
- **Any reaction that we have outside of intentionally worshipping and glorifying God, is what Satan steals for himself and identifies it as worship**
- **Satan defines worship in various ways: fear, doubt, worry, confusion, criticism, hate, jealousy are all received by Satan as worship**
- **So Satan will create, in our life's circumstances, problems, hardships, and even frustrations with our illnesses, to get our attention and affections away from God. Remember God's conversation about Job. Satan basically says, "*let me at him*"**
- **Therefore, when a Christian feels hopeless and in despair, Satan receives that to himself as worship. Romans 5:3-5 is used by Satan against you!**



This Story in John 11 Has Hopelessness Written All Over It!

- Mary and Martha had a brother, Lazarus, who became very, very ill.
- As they watched his life drain from his body their hope for him began to slip away
- But as Lazarus lay dying, the sisters generated one last hope ... Jesus!
- They thought, *“we must send for Jesus!” “He can save our brother from death if we can get Him here in time.”*
- So they send for Jesus, but he doesn’t come right away.
- Be honest. Doesn’t that sound familiar to you?
- You’ve prayed and prayed and Jesus hasn’t shown up for you

This Is Where this Story Resembles Our Story

- Jesus has gotten the message about his friend Lazarus that he is severely ill (Jesus already knows our issues, Matt. 6:32)
- Jesus also knows that all the hopes of Mary and Martha lie on the feeling that He will come before Lazarus dies and heal him. Don't we feel that some of our requests are "time sensitive?"
- So, they/we send for Jesus, but He doesn't come right away
- Jesus deliberately waits two more days during the critical illness of Lazarus (vs. 6) and then says to his disciples, our friend Lazarus is asleep. I must go and wake him up (vs. 11)
- I believe that the human side of Jesus wanted to rush to Lazarus' bedside immediately when He heard he was sick

So Why the Delay?

The Delay Was for God's Greater Glory!

- If Jesus had rushed to Lazarus and kept him from dying; so many of the unbelieving Jews would have said, *“Well, he must not have been that sick.” “It was just coincidental that Jesus arrived at his bedside while he was getting better anyway.”*
- Jesus says, *“I’m glad I wasn’t there when he died so you can really believe.”* John 11:14

Think About This Idea!

- When we are asking God for something in particular, we would like for Him to be as “focused on our need” as we are
- But God's ultimate desire is to

GROW US UP:

- To Mature our faith
- To reveal Himself more fully to us
- Be glorified (put Himself on display)

***In Our Super Bowl,
Jesus Is More
Committed To
Growing Our Faith
and Growing Our
Confidence In Him,
Rather Than
Meeting Our
Needs!***



***Let Him Decide
Between What We
Need vs. What We
Want!***

***In the Christian Life, Sometimes We
Have to Choose Between Our Needs
And God's Glory***

This Dilemma Is Nothing New!

***Jesus As A Man, Had the Same
Decisions to Make (Jesus' Needs vs
God's Glory)***

***Listen To Jesus, Contemplating His
Crucifixion While In Prayer To His Father***

***"O my Father, If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me;
nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" Matthew 26:29***

**When We Have to
Choose Between Our
Needs And God's Glory,
God's Glory Should Win
Every Time!**



(That's Why We Were Created)



Matthew 5:16

Jesus Waited for Lazarus to Die to Provoke a “Dead-Raising Faith” From Mary and Martha

- **Think about this: when Lazarus finally died Mary and Martha turned off their “faith switch.” “It’s over!” “The stone is blocking the door of the tomb”**
- **The grave stone was significant. By agreeing with closing the tomb up, the sisters basically announced to everyone, “*We did believe up to this point.*” “*But once the stone was rolled over the tomb door, we were done!*”**
- **But Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to have, “resurrection faith”, not the, “we believe that you can heal him faith.”**
- **Lazarus was not the only resurrection that occurred that day**
- **There was the resurrection of the faith of Mary and Martha**

Are You Standing At the Tomb Where Mary and Martha Once Stood in Your Life?

Is There a Tombstone Representing Hopelessness in Your Life?

- Is your marriage hanging by a thread, headed for the rocks?
- Is everything you are feeling or not feeling saying, “it’s over?”
- What about the relationship between you and your children/siblings/parents?
- Is there a physical illness that has overwhelmed your life?
- Could it be a financial struggle that has caused a hole from which you seemingly can’t dig out?
- The devil will use your situation to preach hopelessness to you. He pushes hard to get you to say, “It’s over!” “Roll the stone across the door!” “Post a NO TRESPASSING SIGN!”

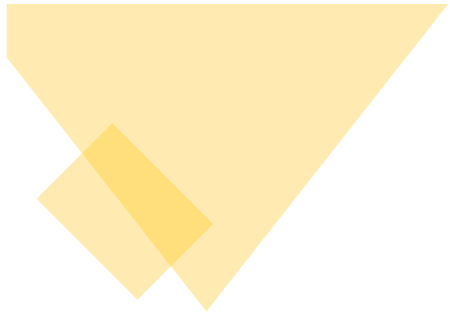
John 12:9

Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priest plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of Him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

- Lazarus allowed Jesus to put his circumstances on display to win souls!
- Will you allow Jesus to use your life to glorify Himself?

God Can Use You In Your Super Bowl to Glorify Himself!





The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

