

John 11

Sunday 1/23/2022

Last week, you will remember, we closed out chapter 10 of the Gospel of John, and what a great learning chapter that was. We now understand God's plan both in the Old Testament with the nation of Israel and then what He is doing in the New Testament with the church, you and me. In both cases, the devil brought opposition to them to stop them, through the nations in the Old Testament. You remember at the first coming of Christ, they are under the iron heel of Rome and through religion at the second coming of Christ. This is what he tried to do. We now have all the examples showing you how history always repeats itself.

If there is one single thing that God's people need to understand, it is the fact of the repetitiveness of history. You are going to find that over the years. I used to go to churches—I did this for 10, 15, probably 20 years—I would go to churches and I would do an in-depth church history study. We would start on Sunday morning and I would go Sunday morning, Sunday night, and I would tell the people that it is going to be at least two or three hours every time we go. The place would be packed. I would go Sunday morning, Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, and finish up on Wednesday night. Obviously, you cannot get into it like we will get into it in Bible Institute, but what I did do was give them a really good in-depth understanding of the things that they needed to understand about church history.

I always started with the aspect of understanding time because that is so crucial. Most people do not think about time. Time is something that we look at our watch, or we look at the calendar, or we have an appointment. But most people do not see time from a biblical standpoint. In your Bible, I told you this Thursday night when we came through quickly the thing on numerology, I told you that the number three was the number of completion. Everything that God does, He does by a number of threes. Of course, it is based on the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. That is complete.

I would tell these people that time has three parts to it. To understand the completeness of anything in your life or in my life or what God is doing, you have to understand these three. Time is past, time is present, and time is future. If I would have my blackboard up here and I would draw just a straight line across that blackboard, there are three aspects to that line I am drawing: there is a length to it, there is a width to it, and then if you add a microscope, there is a depth to it. If you took any one of those, I would tell them this, if you took any one of those aspects off that line, you could not have the line. If you lose any one of the three aspects to history, then you have no history. You are where God's people are at today, completely without any understanding of where they come from.

I would use this to show them the importance of church history in their life, try to get them to move to find out what is going on. I would say, if you do not know where you come from, your roots, you cannot know where you are going, your direction in life. I would say, if you do not know where you have come from and you do not know where you are going, please do not tell me you know where you are at as far as God's plans for your life. That is not just true of church history, but in everything that God is doing.

We have come to the place that we, as God's people, are so one-dimensional. All we see is the day and age we live in and what goes around our world and what directly affects us. The book of Ecclesiastes makes it very clear and will show us that there is a repetitive cycle to history. He says that there is nothing new under the sun. He also says that when somebody says, "Look, this is new," it has already been a long time ago because history always makes a full circle and repeats itself.

The Bible itself is a full circle. It starts with a tree of life in Genesis 1-3. Then you wind up with a tree of life in Revelation 20-22, like we talked about Thursday night. The circuit of history is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God moving down through history. The problem is the circuit of history, Holy Spirit of God, most of God's people have been short-circuited. They do not have a clue.

I showed you coming through here, the greatest single aspect in our last section was how Jesus Himself told us the absolute importance of God doing a work in our lives. I get it. We read that, we talk about that, and we just take that in stride like we do most everything else in the Bible and do not see the impact of that verse. I told you last week, it is not by the example of our power. We think it is today. It is not about your education, how smart you are. It is not about how big your church is. It is not about your status as some degree or some position that you hold. Those are all examples of our power.

Last week, I told you that the real key for all of us will be the power of our example, who we really are and what God is doing through us. That is the reality of it. I get it. This is unheard of today and probably certainly unpopular today, but the bottom line, that is what it is. The fact that Jesus had the power of God's example in His life that the leaders of Israel did not have.

I. The Power of God's Example

This was the fundamental problem. This was the issue. They had the position, they had the status, but they had no power. They had power to rule over the people, but they had no power of the example of God in their life. I am telling you, this is what you find today. This is why they hated Him. This is why they could not stand Him. This is why when Jesus showed up, they had to get rid of Him or get Him out of the way because He was the real deal and He had the power of God's example that they did not have. They could not put up with it.

It is places like this, things like this in the Bible, that I was taught really the inside of ministry. Unfortunately, most pastors, certainly most people, they only see the ministry from the outside. They never see the inner workings of the cause and the effect of things. Over the years, I have looked at passages like this and many, many others, and God used them to teach me never to look at anything just from the outside.

I love all of you and I want the best for all of you and I would do anything for all of you to help you. But I want you to know it is not what I look at on the outside that makes you valuable to this ministry. It is what is on the inside. Many of God's people today want to have the example of power, but very few of them have the power of an example. That is what makes the difference.

Over the years, I have watched, I pay attention to everything. I may not seem like I do. I love giving the impression that I am really just a redneck from Raytown who does not figure anything out. I like that status because then people do not take you too seriously and then you can sneak in the back door and find out what is going on. But the bottom line is this, I watch everything. I have looked at everything over the years in ministry. I was not a guy who just got in ministry and I looked at some of the great ministries across this country. The guys are gone now. They are all going home to be with the Lord. I saw the great ones and I saw the bad ones. I saw what it took to make a great one and I saw what it took to make a bad one.

I pulled back that veil and I looked on the inside of why God's people do some of the things they do, react to some of the things that they do, make some of the decisions that they make in their life, and I run it right back to John 10 and other places. Over the years, I have watched how and why people will leave a good church. It is all across this country. You see a pattern develop, and almost without exception, through my watching this for over 50 years now—I mean, it was back in Canton, it was in churches there, it was when I first came to Canton City—it is everywhere in time. It is the nature of the ministry and people. But almost without exception in every case, they will do exactly what the leaders of the nation of Israel did. The pattern of John 10 becomes so clear.

I had a friend of mine, he is still a friend of mine, who is a pastor, and when it comes to the Bible, he is as solid in the book as you could ever want. He has a really good Bible-believing church and ministry. When you would go into that church and look on the inside, you could not deny that God was doing something through his church. I mean, it was incredible the outreach that he had, the people that they were reaching, his love for the Word of God. But in time, as always, and this just happens, he had some families, two or three families, I do not remember how many, but over the course of time, they got mad about something. They left his church, and the pattern is everywhere, and they obviously trashed him and his church when they left. They never came to him biblically to lay it out. They are what I call the keyboard commandos.

He called me, and I have known him for many, many years, he called me and he laid out what it was and he says, "You know what, there is nothing you can do about it, Bob, but I just would like your insight, that I do not do something stupid because my flesh wants to do one thing and I want to do what is right." He said, "I just need some advice and if there is anything that you have learned through the Bible that you could give me, that maybe you have learned over the years." I told him, I said, "You know what, your problem, your issue is exactly laid out throughout the New Testament. We think because Jesus' earthly ministry was over here and we are in the church over here that the situation was not the same." I said, "Your situation is the same thing that He faced in John 10." In fact, I used John 10 when I talked to him.

This guy had a church that God was doing a work through. His messages were right online, and I have heard him preach many, many times. He has the power of God and the example of that in people's lives. But just like John 10, in every church, I do not care where it is, he had people who had no work of God going on. No power, their lives, their families were terrible examples. They talked a good talk, but in the hotbed of a real Bible-based church like his, a church of God's power, it exposes them. Just like when Christ showed up.

I am telling you this because this is the practical side of these things. Someday, praise the Lord, if Jesus tarries His coming, some of you will pastor a church. Some of you will be in ministry someplace and you are going to be faced with these things. You have a choice. You can either blow it off and just deal with it or you can learn it now. Of course, this is the key. This is how it works. There will be people he had that will talk a good talk, but in a hotbed of a church, as I said, it exposes them. The messages get too close to these people. When a guy can preach the Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God takes it into people's lives, which is what He is supposed to do, and He will show you and me what is wrong with us.

This message may clobber you up alongside the head today, but I have to tell you something. You are very lucky. You only got to listen to it once. I had to go through it 50 times this week, and it gave me a headache every time that I did. But this guy, you could not deny what God was doing. Sometimes people, God's people, just have to make something that God is doing look bad. They need to do that because they are not where they need to be, and they want to make themselves look like they are. So they attack exactly what the scribes and the Pharisees did.

John 10 is a real key to you getting into the ministry, and I told him this. I said, "In Jesus' day, you had the religious leaders who thought they were right, they were not. They thought they had power, they did not, and they really hated the guy that did." So I explained to him, they had to get rid of Jesus just like people like that have to get rid of a Bible-believing church. It is a thing where they left, obviously, and he said that they trashed him, which they always do, all over town, making themselves look good at his expense. The only thing was, and here is what people do not see, the only difference was that God kept blessing his church. People kept getting saved. Those lives kept getting fixed. The people that left, like the guys in John 10, their life just was a disaster. They all lost their kids. They all had problems, and yet they always talk the talk because sometimes, listen to me, sometimes people have to make the things that God does in somebody else's life, whether it is a church or maybe it is your own life. They have to make you the bad guy because they have nothing in their life. The quicker you learn that, the better off you are going to be.

The pattern, they are all the same. The pattern never changes. They have no work of God in their life. Their families are a mess. All their kids are screwed up. They are unteachable, and yet they all have, like the scribes and the Pharisees, this self-righteous attitude that they are okay when there is absolutely no power. In John 10, Jesus Himself said, "The only way you know I am who I really am is not by what I say. It is the work of God through me." End of story.

He said, "I gave him my advice to him was," he said, "Well, you know, what do I do?" I said, "Well, my advice to you is simply this: Do not do anything. If God is doing the miracles in your life and in your church and in your personal family, nobody is going to stop that. The fact that somebody does not like it, you do not take that personal." You see Jesus moping around and, "God, well, they do not believe me. I came to Israel and I have raised dead people and gave eyesight back to the blind. Those 5,000 people did not have anything to eat until I fed them." He did not do that. You know why He did not do that? Because He had something that the opposition did not have. It was the power of God and God working through Him.

I do not care what anybody says about you. I told this guy, "I do not care what anybody says about your church. As long as God is blessing you, who gives a flip?" But we lose sight of those things, you see. We lose sight of those things. I said, "Time will prove all things." One of the great lessons that you learn out of John 10, and I just pause to give you this for a second because many of you are in ministry with me. Many of you are going to move up the ladder, and when I am dealing with you young guys, I am telling you, when you come over and we sit down and talk about the Bible, I see some incredible things that God is going to do in your life. So these are great lessons. What you want to learn out of this is some things never change. The scribes and the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the phonies are always going to be with us. It is just the way it is.

The way that you identify them is not by what they say or not by what they claim, not how much they claim they love God or how much they claim they are in the Bible. You look at the fruit in their life. You look at their family. You look at their kids. You look at what God is doing through them. When it becomes a big goose egg, then you know what you are dealing with.

I had to laugh this week. I learned that God just kind of tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Quit laughing. Listen to this." I was listening to Biden. I am not political. I do not care. But I like to keep up on things. I am like the national inquirer. I want to be informed. I listened to Biden give his second press conference because he has not been talking much to anybody. I sat there and I started to laugh. Then God kind of used that as illustration. He was going, I mean, there are so many problems in our country today. Where do I start? Well, I will start with my list here.

Inflation. You are paying more money for food now if you can find it. I go to the grocery store on Monday to get my supply for what I am going to eat through the week, jelly beans and cereal and hot packs. The shelves, I mean, I am in Hy-Vee and there are shelves that are empty. On top of that, you have the pandemic. I understand he ran on the thing that he was going to crush the pandemic. How little did he know that the pandemic would crush him? Because here we are.

On our foreign policy, what is going on in the Ukraine with Russia? Russia is on the border of the Ukraine. I have been to the Ukraine. They are on the border of the Ukraine. Putin is just waiting to go in there and take the Ukraine back. You remember back before the Soviet Union fell, back when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is a mass. I think you go through four or five time zones from one side to the other. It is incredible. They had the Ukraine. After the collapse, it kind of got split up and the Ukraine became its own little Ukrainian, I guess, I remember what I call it. Now, Putin comes into power. Putin is something else. Putin was the head of the Russian Spetsnaz, which are their special forces. He was head of the KGB for a number of years. Now he is the president of Russia. He is something to reckon with.

When you come to dealing with Russia, Russia only respects one thing: it is power. It only understands one thing: that is brute force. When you have a country, a president, any president that is weak and afraid to stand up to Putin, that is all he wants because he knows he can run over and nobody is going to do anything. It is a sable history repeating itself. It is what Hitler did in 1940 and 1941 when he took Poland, he took Austria, he took Czechoslovakia, he took all those countries in the lowlands, and nobody did a thing. Why? Because he was strong and they were

weak. This is what we have today. So you are going to see in the next six months, he is going to do something. They are going to do something. I suspect that he is not putting 200,000 troops on the border because they are waiting for the Memorial Day Rib Fest. They are going to invade. He is just waiting for the right time.

What will happen, and I am not the prophet or the son of a prophet, but I know history. What will happen is they will sneak some people across the border. This is what Adolf Hitler did. This is how he took Austria. This is actually how he took power. He had his own guys burn down the Reichstag and then blamed it on the communists. The next day, banned communism, came to power, put them all in concentration camps, and voila, there he was. He took Austria because he said that the Austrian Germans were being persecuted so he went in to save them. There are people in the Ukraine who still want the Russians to be Russians, and that is how it will happen. Just write it down.

I am telling you, our foreign policy is a disaster. Gas prices are unbelievable. Crime. Are you kidding me? Last week, five police officers in New York City were shot. It is rampant. As I am watching this with all of the problems, he comes up there and he says to them, and I could not believe it, he says, "Let me ask you a question." They are asking him questions, and he says, "Let me ask you a question. What president in the history of this country has gotten more accomplished in one year than me?" I said, "You have got to be kidding me." About that time, God tapped me on His shoulder and He said, "You know what? That is a good lesson for you, buddy." I said, "What is that, Lord?" He says, "Here is a guy whose whole administration is a dysfunctional mess. It is a disaster. He cannot get anything going. And he just stood up there and told you in his mind, 'Look how good a job he has done.' He says, 'What are you laughing at him for? You have got God's people in your church do the same thing. Their lives are a disaster. Their families are a disaster. There is no power of God in their life. They have never won a soul to Christ. How do anything for God, except talk a lot. There is no power of God's example, and yet they stand there saying, 'Look at me as a Christian.'" It is the same thing. It is the same thing.

Listen, I will say it again. God's work, the proof of my testimony and my life and what I say I am is not what I get up here on Sunday or how well I... it will be the same for me as it is for you. What is God doing through your life?

John 10:38

If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

That is what you have to have today. A lot of great lessons in John 10.

II. John's Unique Perspective and the Wisdom Books

Today, we are going to move into chapter 11. I told you last week that John writes the five wisdom books of the New Testament. The reason he does that is because he is the greatest type of the church in the New Testament. We are going to get into the Bible today. I know we were in it in John 10. We have been in it all through John, but I am telling you right now, you guys that have come over to see me, these are the things you want to get into your Bible.

John is totally different from every other writer in the Bible, certainly the New Testament. Because when he sits down to write his five wisdom books, no other writer has this. Paul did not even have it. When he sits down to write, he has the complete New Testament and the complete Old Testament on the table in front of him. He came through the Old Testament, Matthew 10 is one of the original 12. He transitions then into the church age as an apostle and then becomes a Christian. He writes the five wisdom books in the Bible that are the New Testament that give you an incredible insight. He has a greater perspective than any other writer when it comes to the Bible. Let me show you what I mean. Everything he writes needs to be viewed and looked at in that light.

We are going to talk a lot about your trained eye today. I had a guy call me this week and he listens online and he says, "Boy," he says, "that thing about the trained eye," he says, "that really was an eye opener," what a good choice of words. He says, "You know what," he says, "I thought about this and it was a great idea. I will preach it at some point." He says, "You know what, in my own personal life," he says, "I think of all the other things I have trained my eye to look for." He says, "I like to hunt." I said, "Well, great, nothing wrong with that. I have a bunch of hunters in my church." He says, "Yeah, but you do not understand." He said, "I can go out there before a deer season and I have trained my eye to look for deer rubs. I have trained my eye to look for this." Now, why a deer rubs his head on a tree, I have no idea. He says, "I hunt." He says, "I will go out before turkey season." He says, "I will look for signs." He says, "You know," he says, "you can always tell where the females are at." Because in the springtime, you can only hunt the males and in the fall, you can hunt either one. So in the springtime, you have to make sure that where you are at is not where the females because you cannot shoot them. Then you have to lure the males in to have an intimate relationship with the females and then you shoot him. That always bothered me. You get over there and you sound like a turkey that really wants to get with another turkey. Then when he comes in there and says, "Hey, here I am," bam, you get him right in the face with a 12 gauge. Some things in life just are not fair.

What I will tell you, gals, some of you would have been better off if you had practiced that the first time you met the guy you are married to now, but I am just kidding. He said, "You know," he says, "there is a difference. You can tell the difference between a female and a male." He is going through all this. He says, "I have learned all those signs." He says, "You can tell." He said, "Like, I did not know this." He said, "You can tell by the..." He said, "You know, how do you tell the female turkey from the male turkey?" I said, "No," because I did not want to act like I knew. He says, "It is their droppings." So I go to get into this and I said, "Oh, by tasting them." He says, "No, that one, that the male droppings is in a form of a J because they call male turkeys 'Jakes.' The female turkey is just, it is not in a sign of an F. It is just a straight," you know, "for female." So he is going through all this. He says, "He says, and it hit me when you said that I have trained my eye for all the wrong things." I said, "Well, come on, there is nothing wrong with that. I mean, you like to hunt, you like to fish, you like to do those things. It is okay. You do not want to throw that away." But he said, "But I get your point. We train our eyes for everything except looking at things in the Word of God." That becomes a problem. God's people today, if they have one number of fundamental problems, they have not trained their eye what to look for in the

Word of God. So they just blow over things. So we are going to give your trained eyeballs a workout this morning, just so you know.

Everything he writes, John writes, needs to be viewed in the light of how he writes. When I look at John, he does as a type of the church. There are many examples, but he fundamentally does two things that the church should be doing today. I see this trained eye.

1. The first thing he does is that John 19:26, when Jesus is being crucified, John goes all the way to the end. Nobody else does. The apostles all split for exit stage left. Peter, James, and John all are not there, or Peter and James are not there. There is only one apostle who goes to the end and goes the distance. That is John. That tells me that this church, no matter what comes, hell or high water, this church should go the distance.
2. The second thing he does is his position at the cross. He is at the feet of Jesus. He writes the best account of the crucifixion because he was there. The rest of them just got it by word of mouth. He was there. He is right where any church, certainly this church, should be all the way to the end, but at the feet of the Lord Jesus. You will see that develop as we come through John 11.

He has tremendous insight into all that God is doing, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, and what is going on around him. We should too. Here is why he is so important. When he writes the Gospel of John, which we are studying right now, he writes that between 85 and 90 AD. When he writes the book of 1 John, he writes that book between 85 and 90 AD. When he writes the book of 2 John, he writes that book between 85 and 90 AD. When he writes the book of Revelation, it is commonly given the date of 90 AD.

Stop and think about that for a moment. When he writes his five books, it is almost 100 years after the birth of Christ. We do not think like that. We do not think of time. We do not stop and think about the fact that when he writes his books, Christ was born in Matthew 2 around 4 BC. It is almost 100 years. It is 60 years, no question about it, after Christ starts His public ministry. It is 30 years after the end of Paul's ministry. So when he writes as a type of the church, he has everything that has happened in front of him. He writes with a perspective for you and for me, the five wisdom books to the church that are unparalleled, giving us a perspective and understanding of what God is doing.

We as God's people, we can have that same perspective. That was not something that was just given to John. John is a type of the church and goes through all that that shows us that this church can have that same perception. This is what I work on with you. This is what I try to do. I am not interested in coming in here and tickling your ear. I want to give you the Bible. I want you to leave here today, every day, whenever we are together, I want you to leave with a better understanding and a better perception of the greatest book the world has ever seen. I want this church to be like John. That is my goal for all of you, giving you insight, having you the ability to look on the inside of what God is doing.

III. Background of John 11: Lazarus, Mary, and Martha

Let us get some background today. Let us get into John 11 here and let us set up some ground rules, some background. As we go through this, and there is some stuff in here, we will have a better understanding. I am going to read the first seven verses here and then you just kind of hang on with me here.

John 11:1-7

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Then after that he saith to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

Father, as I stand here before this great chapter, as I stand here before this great book, Lord, I am overwhelmed at the incredible, incredible insight that You have detailed in this great book and in this great chapter. Lord, we as Christians, we go through a lot in this life. I know as pastors we all do and I know as Christians in churches we do. I know churches in general go through tough times. I know, Lord, that the tough times are coming even more. Lord, it is coming to the Word of God. But those words seem so empty. It is like we tell people that, "Oh, the Bible has all the answers for you." Well, it certainly does, but it does you no good if you do not get into the Bible. So help us today get into the Bible. These are good people. I love these folks. I do anything for them. I love the young men and young ladies that we have and the times that they come over and we get to look into the Bible and talk about things and I get to plot a course for them to learn their Bible. It is just, it is great. My investment in the greatest commodity that we have, the people of this church. So help us today to begin to lay the background here, to begin to see what we have and we will be careful to give You all the honor and the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

This chapter, as I have said, is loaded. It will connect us to other verses and other places in the Bible that will unlock an incredible amount of material. I understand that we have a host of, not a host, but we have people here that are on all different levels. I am going to try to make this as easy for you as I can, as I always do. If you have questions about it, things that I can explain better, because obviously I cannot take the time where we would be here till tomorrow and none of us want to meet the Chiefs getting beat tonight. We want to go through this, but I am here to help you with it. So we are going to look at some incredible material here and bring it Thursday night, whatever you have got to do, if I can help you, and we will get it all sorted out.

Laying out the types in this story will be key. That is really key of anything you get into the Bible. When you get into a story in the Bible where there are people mentioned, the first thing you have to do is define who those people represent, because at face value, this is just a story about Lazarus and his two sisters, and he is sick and he dies, Jesus comes and resurrects him. Oh, come on, man. When you start to put these people into their play roles in the Bible, the whole Bible opens up to show you great truths about what God is doing with the nation of Israel, like we saw in John 10.

We will, again, just so you know, we will section this chapter out, just like we did chapter 10. We are not going to bulldoze through here and just overrun a lot of material. We are going to take our time looking at it section by section so you can get your notes down section by section, and then later on, like we do John 10, you can bolt it all back together again and have the complete picture.

The first thing I want you to see that this story here is a real one. This is not a parable. This is not like in John 10 where we opened up with a parable. This is a real story. Our story will revolve around four real people who are key people in your Bible.

- The Lord Jesus
- A man by the name of Lazarus
- Mary
- Martha

You want to remember that when you start something in your Bible, it is very important to always lay these people out, doctrinally, historically, and inspirationally, so you can get a full-blown picture of what is happening here. We are going to do that for you. Maybe not today. We will start today.

The next thing that I want you to see here is that we have two sisters. Just before we get to that, look at verse 3. The Lord is here, and that will be the Lord Jesus Christ as we know, Jesus as we have studied Him at the first coming of Christ. He is coming to Israel. We already know this. Now His close friend Lazarus and the sisters send to Him and say, "Lazarus is really sick." He has compassion on him, and then through the process of time, He goes to him.

IV. Doctrinal Types in John 11: Lazarus, Mary, and Martha

Let us look at Lazarus first. First off, this is not the same Lazarus in Luke 16 of the story of the rich man in hell. That is a different Lazarus. I just want to say that because some people get confused on that, and I understand that. But he in our study here will be a picture of the nation of Israel. You have to see this. He is sick with a disease, as Israel is, and he dies, as Israel is dead spiritually. So it is a picture of Israel's spiritual condition at Christ's first coming.

Let us use our trained eye for a moment. Verse 1. It says, "a certain man." I have told you many, many times that when you find anything like that, "a certain man" or the story about a man or a woman or a child in the Gospels, it is a story that is going to revolve around you have a picture of Israel and their spiritual condition at the second coming of Christ. We saw it in John. The first

one we looked at was in John 3, Nicodemus. I showed you how he is a picture of the nation of Israel, even though he is a real man, but he pictures Israel's condition. In John 4, we had the woman at the well, did we not? I showed you how she is a type. She is a real woman. She went to a real well, but she is a picture of Israel's spiritual condition. In Mark 5:40, you have a little girl who dies and Jesus comes and resurrects her. You are told this little girl is 12 years old. She is a picture of the nation of Israel. She is 12 years old because we are dealing with 12 tribes of the nation of Israel. See how it works? In John 9, you have the man born blind. He is a picture of the blindness of the nation of Israel. I laid all this out. Over in John 5, you had the man that was impotent and withered at the pool of Bethesda. I showed you that that was a picture of Israel's spiritual condition. I laid all that out for you. You know, over there in Luke 8:43, you have a woman who has an issue of blood. She is the one that reaches up and touches the hem of His garment. She has an issue of blood. The Bible is very clear to tell you she has had this issue of blood for 12 years, pictures of 12 tribes in the nation of Israel. Now we come to John 11, and now we have a man named Lazarus who is sick and then he dies, and then Jesus comes and resurrects him. This will be, again, a picture of Israel's spiritual condition.

Look at verse 3. Trained eye again. Let us see what you see here.

John 11:3

Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

If I am reading through my Bible and I know everything that I have just told you is true, so I am looking for the trained eye, not for turkey crap, but I am looking for some things in the Bible that is going to really help me. What do I see there? What do you see there? Do not raise your hand. What do you see there? I am reading that and coming through that and she simply says, "Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Behold, him whom thou lovest is sick." If I am paying attention, I have a trained eye, that will just jump right out at me because I should know that in the Gospels there are only two men that the Bible tells me that Jesus loves. That will just pop up like bouncing Betty. It will just stand out.

In John 19:26, you are told that Jesus loves the Apostle John. In John 11:3, you are told that Jesus loves Lazarus. The reason for this and these being the only two men is to show you the picture and the type that they represent. God the Father loves Israel. So there is Lazarus. You want to look at Deuteronomy 7:6, 9, Hosea 11:1, Malachi 1:2-3, Romans 9:13, all tell you of God's love for Lazarus the nation of Israel. Then with Lazarus a picture of Israel, then we have John as I have already told you is the type of the church and we see in the Song of Solomon and the book of Ephesians, Christ's love for the church. See, it is things like that when you have the trained eye to see them. When you are reading through the Bible, you are not just reading on the outside, you are looking, trying to have insight and look on the inside. Something like that would just jump up and you would say, "Whoa, wait a minute. I think there are only two men in that New Testament that He says He loves." Now if Lazarus represents Israel and John represents the church, wow, there we go, there we go. So this is how you do that. It is not complicated. It is just training your eye. It is just disciplining yourself through your trained eye, knowing what you should know about the Bible, knowing what to look for. Just like if you are going fishing and you

know that in the morning I fish here in this part of the lake, in the evening I fish here. Or if I am hunting here, I have got to go here, I have got to go here, you have got to do this. You learn those things and there is certainly nothing wrong with that. But why is it that the Bible always takes last place in things? It is just the way it is.

The next two in our study line here will be the two sisters. They will be three and four, Mary and Martha. What a study they will be. Doctrinally, you have to remember back now when we started John, they will represent the two elements of the seven family members of the household of God. I gave you back in John 2 and John 3, you remember that? I took time to lay out for you the seven members of the household of God that run from Genesis to Revelation, Romans 14:1, Ephesians 2:14, Ephesians 3:15. I showed you how that there are different people groups through the Bible that represent different time periods in the Bible.

In the passage there we saw the bridegroom. We know the bridegroom is Christ. Then you have a bride. We know that is me and you, the church, 2 Corinthians 11. Matthew 22, Revelation 19 for Christ. Then we found a people group called the Friend of the Bridegroom over there in Luke 16:16. I showed you that that is the people that represented from Moses the law up to when Christ comes. Then we saw a group over there, we see him in Matthew 25 and we see him other places a group called the Virgins. We know that those are tribulation saints. Then we found a group called the Concubines. I showed you that people group runs from Adam before the law up to Moses to the law. You find them in Psalm 45 and then Song of Solomon 6:8-9 and other places in the Bible. Then the last group would be the Queens. Those represent the millennial saints and you will find that in 1 Kings 10.

You remember when we went through that and I hope you put those notes in your Bible. I hope you got that down. I am laying this out now, you ought to be saying, "Oh yeah, I got that. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, that is old stuff. Give me something new, Bob." You have to have that down. That was a major piece of your Bible. It may not have it in your Bible yet, but you certainly ought to have it in your notebook to get it into your Bible. I have showed you how that these seven family members will fit into the household of God that runs from God's beginning in Genesis all the way up to the ending before eternity starts in Revelation 22. They all go to the marriage of His Son, the bride and the bridegroom as you find in Matthew 22.

I would say this, probably most likely based on the information that we have, and we will see this as we get into it. Mary and Martha probably represent that family of the bridegroom from Moses to Christ. I say that because it is very obvious that at the time of Christ, we have two kinds of the nation of Israel is split. We have the ones that are still going by the law and following it, that would be Mary. Then we will find the ones that are doing their own things and they are outside the law, that would be Martha. Once we get into their lives a little bit later on, not today but down the line, you will see how that plays itself out. That is what it looks like doctrinally.

Along with that, the doctrinal application, you are going to see when we get to it that these two sisters, inspirationally, they are an exact picture of the two kinds of Christians you have in

Christianity today. It is incredible. We are going to get to that in time, but there are some things, some groundwork we need to lay out first.

V. The Prophetic Significance of the Third Day

The next thing our trained eye, here we go, should see that all this helps us to establish a further context that we are looking at. It will be what takes place in verse 4. Jesus hears that he is sick, follow along, but waits to come to him till he is dead. Yet says a strange thing in verse 4 that has an incredible doctrinal impact, but I cannot miss the inspirational for all of us. Jesus hears that he was sick and here is what He says:

John 11:4

When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

I understand here all that God getting the glory doctrinally out of Israel coming back to God, the second coming, I get all of that. But here is where He talks about, and Jesus says this sickness is not unto death, but he dies. Then Jesus goes to him and through the power of His example raises him from the dead. It is an incredible picture of Israel, and we will get to that in a moment, but I want you to see how it applies to me and you. Going out of here today with just a doctrinal slant of things is not enough for me. You have to face tomorrow. You have to face the world we are living in right now. You have to face the aspect of what we talked about going on in our country that probably is not going to get any better. So inspirationally, do not miss what I am about to say.

He says this sickness is not unto death, but that the glory of God that the Son might be glorified thereby. He is telling us that no matter what we go through in life as a child of God, it will never be unto death, even though we may die. Because in Christ's presence, based on the book of Romans, there is no real death. There is sleep with God, but there is no death. But God, He says, will allow us to go through things that Christ can be glorified by what we go through.

That is Romans 8:28 in action.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Once you and I get saved, God wants the glory out of everything that is in our life, good, bad, or indifferent. We as God's people have so far from God in the Bible that we think God is only into good things that happen to us. We do not see the Bible says, "all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." May I emphasize "all things," everything, no matter what it may be.

We just came through and are coming through right now what is called a pandemic. I call it "from China with love." Today this church right here, forget everybody else, I am not taking any responsibility. This church today stands having allowed God to get the glory out of what we all

went through. While many of God's people hid under the rock, we stood and still stand on the rock. We did not let it stop us. It just, it did not. Like John, we went the distance. We will always go the distance. We allow God to glorify His Son by our stand on His book.

I get emails all the time, not so much text messages, phone calls every once in a while, people who watch us on there and they were going through some tough times and they did not have a church. They do not have anybody to go to. This is their church and they are all around the country and literally around the world. I cannot tell you how many people contacted me and said, "You do not know how much I appreciate your stand of keeping everything going, not only on the YouTube, but in your ministry because that is what God is a real blessing to me." I thought, you know, does anybody ever stop and just take a time out? For the last two and a half years, we went through some tough times. Remember the goofy thing where we all had to split up and go into homes, ten in a piece, and we all fudged on that and put 20 in? We had a number of our people get sick. We had our whole camping program get shut down because we got sick and we got our rear ends kicked over that, one thing over the other.

Hey, you know what? Those things never bother me because let me ask you a question. I am not you, but I will just ask the question. Everybody talks about the terrible things of the last two years. Has anybody ever stopped and counted the blessings out of the last two years? You remember before we moved here, the baptismal service we had? Scores and scores of people lined up all the way. You do not know how many people want. We broadcasted that. You do not know how many people contacted me and said, "Man, I cannot believe." You know why that was the way it was? Because we did not hide under a rock. We did not shut the doors. There are pastors in this town, I am just telling you, for the most part, they look for any opportunity to cancel their church service. If on Monday, the nine-day forecast says it is going to snow 20 inches on the weekend, they are closed on Tuesday. I think some of them have a close in July waiting for the winter to come. We did not close anything.

I told you over and over and over and over again, we are going to go through some tough times. Jesus went through some tough times. We find a way. We do not stop. We do not throw up our hands and surrender. There are people that are still lost. We had scores of people saved during that period of time. We had, I do not know how many people moved from across the country to come to be a church here in the middle of those things. It just, it never stops. If you would ask somebody, "Wow, do you know how many people got saved while you were not here?" They would not have a clue. You know why? Because they are not part of what is going on here. God gave us this place. You see, when you do what is right and you go the distance like John and you try the best of your ability to stay at the feet of Jesus on that cross, the blessings just keep coming.

The scribes and the Pharisees in John 10, they had the example of their power, but they never had the power of their example. All of those, they were against Christ and everything He did, the blessings of God kept coming through the Lord Jesus Christ. This church stands in the testimony of what He says right there. We did not quit. I am not going to ever quit. I watch these guys, you know, when they get into a pastor, I do not know what they do for 20, 30 years, but when they hit 65, then it is time for them to retire. They actually think that they did a great job for Jesus and

now it is time they retire on the golf course or the lake or do whatever they want to do. Let me tell you something. When God calls you to preach and God puts you into a pastor, it is a lifeline commitment. There is no retirement. You do not retire. You may re-fire, but you do not retire. There is no end date on your ministry. You stay with it as long as you can, as much as you can, till you cannot do it anymore. When you cannot walk up to the pulpit, then you crawl up. When you lose your teeth and you cannot speak, then gum them to death. It does not matter. You stay with what God has called you to do.

I have never understood it. It takes what, 50, 60 years for any man, any woman to really get an understanding on what is going on with God and the Bible if you are in it. Then when you hit that point that you really have something to give, hey, I cannot play volleyball anymore. I cannot play softball anymore. I cannot go out there and do the things I used to do. It is okay. The best part of me now is what I have learned the last 60 years. So what am I going to do now that I am here? Go play golf four times a week, God forbid. Come down to Florida to the pastor's graveyard, get me a little house up here, up the street that is for retired pastors. Are you kidding me? You go till you cannot go anymore and then you go a little farther. That is in the Bible. I will let you figure it out and find it for yourself.

That is why God blesses you. That is why God blesses this church. It does not matter what the people out there that have no power near God says. It does not matter at all. What matters is what He is doing here, the people have gotten saved, the lives that are being changed, over a thousand people following everything that God is doing here.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Our fear will always put us in the rear with a gear. We are on the front line. We did not just talk it, we lived it. We believe for me, all things that work together for good to them that love God to them are called according to His purpose. For me, His purpose was more important than anything else that was going on. We have to continue to do that purpose. Nothing is going to stop it. Nothing. I built you that way. I built you to be strong. I built you to be tough. I built you not to be a whiner and a complainer. I built you to realize that there are going to be some rough times in what we do. But you know what? Either we do it or we become an Episcopalian. We have to do what God has called us to do. His purpose has to be our purpose.

The next thing we see, as far as I am concerned, will seal the deal on the context here. Verse 6 and 7 says, He hears, going back to the same 7 verse now, but we are going to look at it doctrinally, He hears he is sick, Lazarus, then He waits two days. Wow. Trained eye. He waits two days and then goes to him. Your trained eye is getting a workout today. That means that He shows up and goes to see Lazarus, who is the type of the nation of Israel and resurrects him on the third day. He purposely waited two days, goes to him on the third day. Now why is that?

You know that in your Bible there will be seven different ways the Holy Spirit of God will lay out the day of the Lord, the second coming, the approximate time, times and the seasons. In Matthew 20, He gives us an hour system. In Mark 6 and in Mark 13, He gives us a watch system.

Then we have a seven-day system based on Genesis 2:1 that runs up through the Bible that the seven days of creation. Then He tells us over there in 2 Peter 3:8, that one day with the Lord is a thousand years is one day. So now we see that those seven days that have creation are a picture of the seven thousand years that man is going to be on this earth. Then there is a system that shows you the last three days or the last three thousand years that starts at the crucifixion and goes into the millennium and that is the third day system.

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

You know what He is saying? He is saying when your Bible one day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day. So you see God over there in Genesis, He creates everything in seven days. On the seventh day in Genesis 2, He stops, He rests, He set that day apart and that becomes the millennial Sabbath. That is why all the Jews' feasts always run seven days or multiples of seven days.

Now look at verse 9 and 10 going back to here. I am going to say in 2 Peter 3:8, look at verse 9 and 10. The promise that He talks about in verse 9 and 10 is a second coming of Christ. That is what He is talking about. He is giving you a great key. So you have a seven-day system each running a thousand years, total of six thousand years that man is on the earth from Adam and Eve up to the second coming and then the seventh thousand years is going to be the millennium just like it is laid out in Revelation 20. Then you have a third day system. That is counting from the first coming of Christ to the millennium, three thousand years or the third day. When Christ waits two days before He comes to resurrect him that is dead now and comes on the third day, Lazarus being a picture of the nation of Israel being resurrected on the third day of the second coming of Christ.

Let me show you these in the Bible. Do not take my word for it. You will want to get these down. Go back to Exodus 19. Let me show you how an Old Testament passage back here, this dry old boring Old Testament, how it impacts an incredible way of what we are studying today and what we are looking at today. Let us read it.

Exodus 19:14-20

And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.

And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives.

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

You know what you have there? You have a picture of the end of the tribulation period. Let me lay it out for you. Do not take my word for it. A couple of things your trained eye ought to be looking at here.

3. First of all, note in verse 15 he tells them to get ready for the third day. We have already talked about that so we will not get into it. This mountain here is described in Hebrews 12:18 as spiritual Mount Zion. That is why they meet at the bottom of it but they cannot go up it. They cannot touch it because it is the spiritual one over there that he is talking about that no man can touch without dying. Just throw that in for you. Now what we have here is a picture of the Jew in the tribulation period told to get ready for the day of the Lord on the third day.
4. Here is your trained eye. Look at verse 15. "Come to third day, come not at your wife." What has that got to do with anything? Why cannot you be intimate with your wife on the third day because of the fact that what is going on here? I will just tell you why. That is because that the tribulation saints are like virgins in Matthew 25 and Revelation 7 and Revelation 14 and they are told here not to come with their wife because they represent Israel who are virgins in the tribulation period. See how that works? Trained eye.
5. Now look at verse 14. "Wash your clothes." Why? Because Jesus wants you to smell good. Why? Because you have all been out in the desert for so long. Why are they to wash their clothes? Because in Revelation 7:14 and Revelation 14:12 the Jew in the tribulation is told to wash their own clothes. See how it works?
6. Verse 16, "on the third day in the morning," that will be the fourth watch, Mark 13 of the second coming of Christ, daybreak.
7. Verse 16, "lightning," that is Psalm 77, second coming. "Thick cloud," Acts 1 and 2, the book of Joel, second coming. "The voice of a trumpet," second coming.
8. Verse 17, "and Moses," Revelation 11, he is one of the two witnesses that represent the nation of Israel. He goes to meet God on Mount Sinai. Picture the second coming of Christ.
9. Now look at verse 20. At the sound of that trumpet, on the third day the Lord comes down in the morning and Moses goes up. It is a picture of the raptured tribulation saints going up at the second coming of Christ represented by Moses on the third day. Cannot beat it. You see it is all what you train your eye for.

Look over at Hosea 6:1-3.

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Wow. All right, look at verse 1. Context. Nobody going to return to the Lord. Context, verse 1. That person is returning, has been torn, they have been beaten, they have been all messed up through the tribulation and now they are going to get healed in the millennium. Verse 2, when? "After two days." When? "In the third day he will raise us up." Look at verse 3. His going forth from Sinai, that will be the root of the second coming of Christ which I do not have time to get into here. You can go back here and you will find in your Bible two places where somebody is told to take their shoes off their feet. The first place will be the start of the second coming and then the route going up through the King's highway up to the Mount of Olives where the second person is told to take his shoes off. All in the Bible for you. In the morning, chapter 19 verse 16, this will be Christ in Revelation 2 called the morning star, in 2 Peter 1:19, He is called the day star that arises in your hearts. It is Christ. What seals the deals in verse 3? The former and the latter rains, James 5:7. We have looked at that many, many times.

Now the next one real quickly here. Look at John 2. When we came to John 2 I laid out for you this great story that on the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee. This is where Jesus turned the water to wine. I showed you that it was on the third day it was a marriage and how that marriage is the picture of marriage of God's Son that takes place on the third day. I mean it is all through the Bible. Now we see in John 11:6 that Lazarus is a type of the nation of Israel. He is dead. Jesus waits two days till he is dead. Then He comes to resurrect him on the third day.

So looking at this story we will see a number of things. But first and foremost we will set a context for our chapter. As we go through this over the weeks to come it is an amazing thing. This is what the Old Testament has laid out for you in the book of Ezekiel. You remember a couple of weeks ago I took you through chapter 34, told you the sheep and the shepherd lined it up to Israel and the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Then in chapter 35 of Ezekiel if you just want to follow the chapters you have the judgment of the Gentiles. Then in chapter 36 you have the regathering of the nation of Israel like 1918 to 1948. Then in chapter 37 you have Israel raised from the dead. This will be the great chapter on the dry bones. This will be chapter 11 where we are at today. Then in chapter 39 you have the tribulation and then in chapter 40 through 48 you have the third day or the seventh day however you want to count it. Now we are in the millennium, second coming of Christ, off we go. See, that is how the Bible lays itself out.

VI. The Imperative of a Trained Eye

I am certainly not expecting you to walk out of here understanding all of that. But what I am certainly hoping that you will do is learn this material. Train your eye. Train your eye. Train your eye. Train your eye to look in that Bible and look on the inside. Get insight into it. Do not worry about watching the Royals play or some other ball team play and be in the umpire and the armchair that said, "Well, that was a strike, that was a ball." Forget your trained eye with that. Do

not worry about watching a game this afternoon, they throw the yellow flag or whatever it is and all those things. They say holding and you say he did not hold because my trained eye did not see a hold. Forget that. Get your trained eye right here. Train your eye to see what is in this marvelous book. That is the key.

All this is laid out for the New Testament church if you just want an easy composite of it in the three great chapters written to the church in the book of Romans. Romans 9, Romans 10, Romans 11. Everything I have given you today and will give you in chapter 11 will play itself out in that. Romans 9 shows you exactly how Israel got messed up in great detail. Chapter 10 of Romans shows you that while they got messed up and God was finished with them temporarily, the gospel then goes to the Gentiles, us. Then Romans 11 says that once the fullness of the Gentiles come in, God turns His attention again to the nation of Israel and Romans 9 shows you how they got messed up. Romans 10 shows how we got grafted in as the wild olive tree and then Romans 11 shows you that God is going to restore them and bring them back. That is the key to putting your Bible together. It is like I said last week, understanding how to rightly divide the word of truth and the first two divisions is the Old Testament and the New Testament, what God is doing and there is a lot to it. We will work through it together.

We today now have laid out the background of chapter 11 of the Gospel of John. Now we are ready to get into the chapter and start defining all of these things that we have seen. You leave here today, you understand the basics of what we have. We will fill in the details. You have questions, you have issues, you have things you want me to clarify, you come and see me. Bring it Thursday night, whatever works for you. We will get it down. My goal for you is for you to have that insight that you actually see what is inside the Bible, not just on the surface and everything. Doctrinally, inspirationally, your own life, the things you have to deal with, the Bible will give you everything you need. The power of the example of God in our lives.

We will hold up there. Ladies, do not forget, please sign up up here if you have not done it yet. Let us have a word of prayer. I will see you all Thursday night. Let us pray.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You, Lord, for loving us and for taking care of us and for our church and the blessings. Thank You for our courage of our men and women here that are able to take the stand against anything. Lord, that we are not stopping. We are going to keep on going. We will find a way. We will do whatever we have got to do, however we have got to do it, but the word will never not go out from this pulpit. Help us, Father, to build up men and women who love the book, love You, and want to take a stand in these last days because there are some tough times coming. What we have been through is nothing compared to what we are going to have to go through. But let us be found faithful, like John, all the way to the cross, to the distance, and at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. Amen.