



God wants to write you into His story

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God follows a different script than the one we try and write for ourselves

Our struggles and suffering are opportunities for God's glory to be revealed

This may mean our hopes and dreams deferred and sidelined

When we do God's work, we walk in the light. God makes us a part of His story! And we get great stories to tell.

Jesus

Works on his own time-table
(It's never too late!)

Takes his time with us, to enter into our suffering
(He comes with compassion.)

The glory of God is revealed in time
(Foreshadowing future, eternal glory)

Man born blind – John 9

John 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Man born blind – John 9

4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."



Man born blind – John 9

6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Man born blind – John 9

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

A close-up photograph of a man wearing a light-colored turban. He has his hands clasped together in front of his face in a prayerful or contemplative gesture. The background is softly blurred, showing green foliage. The overall tone is serene and spiritual.

How God worked in this situation

- This man and his family had to wait until the time ordained by God
- Jesus' intention was not just to heal his eyes, but to also reveal himself and make himself known to him.
- Jesus also puts this into the perspective that his ultimate goal is leading as many as possible into eternal, spiritual sight.

Lazarus – John 11

John 11:1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." **5** Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Lazarus – John 11

John 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. **10** It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

9:4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Jesus lights up the day. Daytime is for work, doing the work He calls us to.

Lazarus – John 11

John 11:14 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."



Lazarus – John 11

John 11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Lazarus – John 11

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Martha was an astute woman who understood God's plan for the resurrection, and she had strong faith!

Lazarus – John 11

28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Mary finds herself, once again, at Jesus feet.

Lazarus – John 11

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

Jesus takes his time, then takes time

Delayed before coming – because he had a plan

Moves slowly at the scene, spending personal time with Martha and Mary before doing what he had planned

Jesus cares about our pain. Even when we don't see him working yet in our circumstances.

Jesus – deeply moved

“Jesus, *was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.*”

NT:1690 embrimaomai (em-brim-ah'-om-ahee); from NT:1722 and brimaomai (to snort with anger); to have indignation on, i.e. (transitively) to blame, (intransitively) to sigh with chagrin, (specially) to sternly enjoin



John 11:39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

How God worked in this situation

1. Jesus waited until the time lined up according to His will
2. He entered into the situation, taking time to experience the grief of his friends
3. Then He reveals the glory of God in time!

Application

Our struggles and suffering are opportunities for God's glory to be revealed

This may mean our hopes and dreams deferred and sidelined

When we do God's work, we walk in the light. God makes us a part of His story! And we get great stories to tell.

1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.



We need to
trust God
in all
circumstances

1. Trust first of all in his love for you. Know he cares for you, even when you don't see it
2. Trust in his power to move on your behalf. The God who can raise the dead is working for you.
3. Trust in his plans – though his timing may differ radically from our wishes, know he is working to reveal His glory.



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