



# John

## Lesson 11 Chapter 11

*In chapter 10 Jesus used an example of a shepherd's care for his sheep to describe the love He has for Israel. The contrast between Jesus and the false shepherds, the leaders of Israel, is vivid. Jesus also identifies Himself as the "door" to the sheepfold. Through this statement He was identifying Himself as the only way into the sheepfold. Those who enter by Him may then go in and out under His care. The religious leaders understood this graphic illustration as a rebuke to them for their selfishness, pride, and hypocritical lifestyles. Sadly, their hearts were so hardened that His words of truth only increased their hostility toward Jesus.*

*In Chapter 11 John records the seventh and final sign to identify Jesus. Although Lazarus' home in Bethany was only 2 miles from*

*Jerusalem (vs.18), it was about 20 miles from Perea (the area of Bethany beyond the Jordan) where Jesus was ministering at this time (John 1:20; 10:40). The walk probably took about a day each way, and Lazarus was probably dead by the time the messengers reached Jesus. Because of previous encounters with the religious leaders in Jerusalem, the disciples of Jesus couldn't believe He would return there. Jesus obviously intended to use Lazarus' death and resurrection as another way to reveal His true identity to those who would believe, but it would certainly incite His enemies to be more determined to be rid of Him. This would indeed be the event that began the planning process for how they would kill Him (11:53).*

### READ CHAPTER 11

1. *Give the details of a previous encounter that Jesus had with Lazarus' family from Luke 10:38-42.*
  
2. *What message did the sisters send to Jesus, and what do you think may have been their objective for Him?*
  
3. *According to vs.7-14, what was Jesus' purpose for this situation?*

4. *In view of the disciples' response to Jesus' aim to go to Bethany in vs.8, what do you think Thomas was thinking by his statement in vs.16?*



*In Jewish culture the dead were buried the day of their death if possible. During the days immediately following, friends and neighbors would visit the bereaved and mourn with them. Close relatives of the deceased would sit on the floor for a week following the death as the mourners gathered around them. This tradition was called "shivah" meaning seven days and is still practiced by many today. For the next three weeks those mourning would abstain from adornment, and for the next year from common pleasures. The body itself would be laid in the center of a tomb on the floor, and a stone would be rolled against the entrance to keep animals or robbers out. After a year, when the body had completely decomposed, the family would collect the remaining bones. These would be stored in a box which was put in a slot in the wall. (Bible Background Commentary)*

5. *From Martha and Mary's statements to Jesus upon His arrival (vs.21and 32) and from the comments of those present (vs. 37), how might these people have been feeling about Jesus when He finally got to Bethany? What did they seem to think about the limitation of His power?*

6. *What is Jesus' response to Mary's statement in vs. 23-24? What other "I AM" statements of Jesus has John recorded up to this point, and what is the significant point He is making in each one?*

a) 6:35

*Point:*

b) 8:12

*Point:*

c) 10:7

*Point:*

d) 10:11,14

*Point:*

7. *If Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, what moved him to the point of tears? Vs. 35 and 38. What does that tell you about Him?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. *From verses 45-48, explain the different responses that this miracle incited.*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. *What do you think Caiaphas meant by his statement in vs. 49-50? How was this statement prophetic?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. *What effect did these events have on the ministry of Jesus?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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