

# WHEN LIFE HAPPENS

SERMON SERIES

## SERMON NOTES

Week 1 August 31, 2025

**"God is Good?"**

John 11:8, 11-12, 14-16, 21, 33, 35, 39, 41-45;  
1 Peter 5:6-7

### I. Introduction

- A. When bad things happen and circumstances go the wrong way, human beings instinctively look up at God and ask '\_\_\_\_\_?'
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ actually went out of his way to create a scenario that included panic, pain, sorrow, grief, sickness, anger, and, ultimately, death.
- C. When Jesus heard his friend Lazarus was ill, he stayed in Bethabara with his apostles for two days and waited there until Lazarus \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Death of Lazarus

- A. Regarding the death of Lazarus, Jesus said to his disciples "And for your sake I am glad I was \_\_\_\_\_ there, so that you may believe."
- B. Martha \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for the death of her brother.
- C. At the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Jesus asks for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be removed from the entrance of Lazarus' tomb.
- E. Jesus says to God, "I said this for the benefit of the people standing here that they may believe you \_\_\_\_\_ me."

### III. Application – Lessons from the Death of Lazarus

- A. The Father sent the son to \_\_\_\_\_ several things as to what the father can do.
  - 1. The father weeps with you in your pain whether you blame him or not.
  - 2. There is always hope.
  - 3. The assurance of God's presence and promise.
- B. Our circumstances are not an indicator of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Peter tells us to cast all our anxiety on God because he \_\_\_\_\_.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 1-6, 2025*

## INTRODUCTION

When life doesn't turn out the way we hope, it can cause us to doubt God's goodness. But many times, it's in the midst of our circumstances that we better understand God's presence.

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### Monday: John 11:32–43

Knowing that miracles don't always happen the way we sometimes hope they would, how could the story of Lazarus still provide a foundation of hope for someone in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges?

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### Tuesday: 1 Peter 5:6-7

Peter writes, "Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). What is your initial reaction to that invitation?

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### Wednesday: John 9:1-3, Luke 13:1-9

In John 9, Jesus didn't try to sort out who or what was to blame for the man's blindness. Instead, he urged the disciples to look forward to how God's power could work in the man's life. Have you ever had second thoughts about the goodness of God because of pervasive pain and suffering in the world?

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### Thursday: Psalm 23

The psalmist reminds us that God walks with us through the difficult times in life. Where have you felt the most pressure during this season? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else?

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### Friday: Psalm 22

The Bible does not teach us that bad things will never happen to good people. All throughout scripture we see God's people going through difficult times. Today's text is just one of many psalms of lament. Did you grow up assuming if God was with you, things would go well for you (or something similar)?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The story of the death of Lazarus reminds us that God is present in our difficult circumstances, he weeps with us in our pain, and that with God there is always hope. Therefore, our circumstances are not an indicator of God's absence or lack of goodness. When you deal with difficult seasons in life, Peter reminds us to cast our anxiety on God, because he cares.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) why, B) Jesus, C) died. IIA) not, B) blames, C) wept, IID) stone, E) sent. IIIA) demonstrate, B) absence, C) cares.*