



## *For the Glory of God*

*by Gene Easley*

"Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. <sup>4</sup>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" (John 11:3-4).

The sickness of Lazarus was bringing panic to the hearts of Martha and Mary, his sisters. They knew how serious it was and desperately wanted help from the Lord. They knew Jesus could heal. But there were things they did not know about His power. There were things that these sincere and dedicated servants of God needed to learn.

Jesus could have returned and healed Lazarus immediately. He could have prevented him from dying until He had opportunity to lay His hands on the sick man and make him whole. But Jesus didn't choose to do that. He wanted Martha and Mary and the rest of the world to receive a greater revelation of Himself. All of this was happening for the glory of God. All the while, his sisters were thinking, "How can all of these horrible things be happening to us?"

Can the trying times in our lives really be instrumented for the glory of God? Can God be trying to reveal to us a greater revelation than we have known of Him? Does God sometimes take us through a low valley in order to reveal to us His greatest truths? Will our valley experience in the end bring greater glory to God?

Everybody wanted Jesus to hurry up and do what needed to be done. "Please rush back to Bethany, Jesus. Lazarus is at the point of death. You can't waste any time." This was the thinking of Mary and Martha and everybody else.

But if Jesus had reacted in the manner which humans believed He should, we would have missed one of the greatest miracles in the Word of God. Lazarus would just have been on the list of thousands of sick people healed by Jesus. Instead, he appears on a very small list of those raised from the dead by the power of God. And he is on a list by himself of someone who spent four days in a tomb, his body decaying, to be raised back to life. Christ was glorified in a very special way by this story.

So, don't be so quick to evaluate your misfortunes. Your ordeal might be happening for the glory of God! Turn your problem over to Jesus. Trust God to know the best way to answer your prayers.