

**Reverend Lotwina Farodoye**

**Christ Church West Wimbledon 8am and 10am Service**

**Sermon Title: “When Hope Seems Delayed: The Glory of God in the Waiting”**

**Scripture: John 11:1–45 (with Romans 8:6–11)**

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### **Introduction: When Life Feels Too Late**

Have you ever needed help urgently, and the person you were counting on didn't show up on time?

Maybe someone said, “I'm on my way”... but clearly wasn't.  
Or we've been waiting for something important, and the delay made it worse.

Or we've sent a message... and we can see they've read it... but they don't reply.

We might wonder why they are not replying. Perhaps they are really busy? Or we might think “Did I say something wrong?”

Waiting can create tension or raise questions.

Now imagine not waiting for a reply, but waiting for a miracle.

That's where we find Mary and Martha in John 11.

They send word to Jesus:  
“Lord, the one you love is sick.”

And then... nothing.

No immediate response.  
No quick arrival.  
Just silence.

And it's a question we recognise:  
“Jesus... why aren't You here yet?”

And this passage gives us a truth we can hold onto:

**God's delays are not God's denials.**

**1. The Reality of Pain**

Mary and Martha loved Jesus, and still, Lazarus became sick.

This shows us that faith does not remove hardship.

Being close to God does not mean life will always be easy. Sometimes the place where God is most present is also where pain is most real. But here is our hope: Jesus does not avoid our pain, He enters into it.

**2. The Mystery of Delay**

When Jesus hears the news, He waits two days. Why would He wait?

Because He is not just going to heal Lazarus, He is going to reveal God's glory. What feels like delay to us is often God working at a deeper level. We may want quick answers. But God is doing something eternal. So if you are in a season of waiting right now, please know that your waiting is not wasted.

**3. The Power of Perspective**

Jesus says, "This will not end in death."

Even when Lazarus dies, that word still stands, because Jesus sees beyond the moment. We often define our situation by what we see. God defines it by what He knows. What looks like an ending to us may actually be a beginning in God's hands. What feels like loss may become a testimony. And Romans 8 reminds us that the Spirit brings life and peace, even when everything feels like death.

**4. The Heart of Jesus**

"Jesus wept."

He knew resurrection was coming, and still He wept.

So when we suffer, we need to remember that God is not distant.

He feels what we feel. He is present in our pain. And if you are hurting today, you are not alone.

## **5. The Call to Faith**

Jesus says to Martha,  
“Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

Faith is not denying reality, it is trusting God in the middle of it. Martha saw a sealed tomb. Jesus saw an opportunity for glory. And this is where it becomes personal: will we trust what we see...or will we trust what God has said?

## **6. The Miracle**

Jesus calls out, “Lazarus, come out!”

And the impossible happens. The man who was dead walks out of the tomb. This is our reminder: Jesus has power over death. He brings life where there is none. And the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us right now.

## **7. The Invitation**

Lazarus comes out, but still wrapped in grave clothes. Jesus says, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” So even after God brings new life, there is still a response from us. We can be alive, and still bound. Bound by fear, by shame, by doubt or past events.

And today, Jesus is calling us into freedom.

What is it that you need to leave behind?

## **What Do We Do With This?**

So how do we live this out?

We trust God’s timing, even when it’s difficult.  
We bring our pain honestly to Him.  
We hold onto hope, even when it feels impossible.  
We look for His glory, even in the waiting.  
We step into the freedom He offers us.  
And we keep walking with Jesus in every season.

## **Conclusion: From Delay to Glory**

What began as sickness ended in resurrection. What looked like loss became a testimony. And the same Jesus stands with us today.

He sees you.  
He knows your pain.  
He has not forgotten you.

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead  
is at work in us right now.

And this is the hope we hold onto together:

Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and He is with us.

Even in the waiting... Even in the silence...

God is bringing life. So hold on. Trust Him. Believe.

Amen.