



# International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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## John 11:17-27 Study Hints for Discussion

[\*Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further\*](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [\*Class Preparation Guide\*](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [\*Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout\*](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

### **1. Why might God sometimes choose to delay in giving us what we want?**

God may want to teach the most people possible about His love and grace and power to help, and this may mean delaying the giving of the gift He wants to give us until the best time. God may want us to see that what we want is not best for us or others concerned, so we will change our prayers. For example, though Mary and Martha wanted their brother back from the dead, it might not have been in his best interests to come back to Earth from the joys of heaven, from being with Abraham and others of faith. Remember, however, God intended for Lazarus to die and for Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead when He did. God has good intentions and reasons for all He does and when He does it.

### **2. Why do you think people of all economic conditions and stations in life followed Jesus?**

Jesus taught the truth and the Holy Spirit indwelt Jesus and confirmed His teachings; therefore, Jesus reached people of all types, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, as God drew them to Jesus. Some of the rich people who followed Jesus opened their homes so He could teach rich and poor, and so

the needy could be fed both physical and spiritual food when Jesus was in their homes. To whom much is given much is required, and many wealthy people wanted to serve Jesus and others with the material blessings God had bestowed upon them. Many poor people had their needs met by Jesus, and they were able to go out and tell their poor family and friends about Him; therefore, they led others to Jesus and to believe in Him. In heaven, all will be blessed and enjoy the happiness Jesus and His Father give.

### **3. What truths about Jesus did Martha confess to Jesus? Do you believe these?**

God the Father gives Jesus whatever He asks. On the last day, the dead will be resurrected. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was the One who was to come into the world. Jesus is my Lord and my Teacher (see John 11:27-28). Yes.

### **4. Why is it important to believe that those who die “will rise again in the resurrection on the last day”?**

For the followers of Jesus, this is a part of the good news that Jesus preached, “This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day” (John 6:40). This is not good news for the one who rejects Jesus, “The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge” (John 12:48). So, it is important for us to believe in and live according to the truth and follow Jesus, for there are eternal consequences if we do not. Paul also wrote: “For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10). And further, “It is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus loved, came, lived, taught, died, and rose again to save us from our sins, so we joyfully love, follow, and serve Him forever and ever. Furthermore, we need to remember what Jesus said, “And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to

the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God” (John 3:19-21).

### **5. What does it mean for a believer in Jesus to “never die.”**

Even though their physical body will die, their soul or spirit will not die. The believer will leave his body behind and go to be with the Lord Jesus in Paradise or Heaven. Their spiritual essence, united with the Holy Spirit, will never die but always be with God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit and all those who love Jesus and His followers.

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