

Trusting in the Goodness of God

John 11

We Are In Control Of Our World

- We don't get sick; our family members never get old and pass on; our jobs are completely secure, and inflation never outgrows our income; our children and grandchildren always grow up healthy and strong, and never get in accidents; they always get good jobs nearby and never have financial setbacks; our marriages are always loving and our neighbors are thoughtful; our homes are comfortable and our cars never need repairs; natural disasters never occur in our neighborhoods and crime happens in other places; all of the members of the church get along and everyone loves the sermons and singing. And all of this happens because we are in complete control of the world around us.

We Are **Not** In Control Of Our World

- And since this an absolute truth, we need to learn Who is in charge and put our confidence in the One who created both the world and all of the people in it. The One Whose perfect design and flawless creation is an eternal source of wonder.
- This is our Father's world, and we will learn to trust Him.

Faith Into Trust; Trust Into Peace; Peace Into Heaven

- “Faith doesn't come in a bushel basket. It comes one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He's so trustworthy that you will be putting your whole life in His hands.”
- “If you're wrestling with some sort of decision, reflect for a moment and ask yourself, ‘Am I being brave, or am I being safe?’ In the end, it depends on whether you think God can be trusted.
- “When faith grows up, it becomes trust.”

Trust Must Have A Visible Form

- “When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away your ticket and jump off the train; you trust the engineer and wait until the train comes out of the tunnel and the light returns. Trust God no matter how dark the situation; He will bring you out of the darkness.”
- “The Bible never tells us to figure everything out; it tells us to trust God; He already has it all figured out.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- In the midst of difficulties, hardship, and confusion, we can trust that God is up to something good
 - John 11:1-6

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- It is important that we bring our difficulties to Jesus and discover what He has to say about them
 - John 11:2-4 - “Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick. 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
 - 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- When the Lord's timing doesn't match our own, we need to trust in His goodness
 - John 11:5-6 - “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”
 - Psalm 27:14 - “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”
 - Isa. 40:31 - “But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- The Lord's love for us is never in question, and we should beware of the trap of trying to finish this sentence when we think of God: “If You really loved me, then You would...”
- Trusting in Christ's leadership means setting aside our human expectations and surrendering our limited understandings to His Lordship, especially when He moves in directions that are different from what we would choose.

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- John 11:7-10 - “Then after this He said to the disciples, Let us go to Judea again. 8 The disciples said to Him, Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again? 9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- Isa. 44:6-8 - “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- In the Lord's own timing, He reveals what He wants to do in our midst and invites us to meditate on the possibilities with Him
 - John 11:11 - “These things He said, and after that He said to them, Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”
- To see what God is really intending, we have to let go of our preconceived ideas
 - John 11:12 - “Then His disciples said, Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- What God is able to do and wants to do is greater than we can imagine
 - John 11:13-15 - “However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, Lazarus is dead. 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”
- 1Cor. 2:9 - “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- In the end, it is not our understanding that honors the Lord, but rather our loyalty and the determination to follow Him no matter what we think we understand
 - John 11:16 - “Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- All things are possible when we believe
 - John 11:17-43
- All too often, believers often say the right words, but fail to see what God is doing or hear what He saying in the moment.
 - John 11:21-27
 - Matt. 17:1-6

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- In the midst of heartache, we need to be careful not to isolate ourselves from Christ, but rather purpose to draw closer to Him
 - John 11:28-36
- We have the choice to either trust in the Lord's goodness or to become cynical and accusatory
 - John 11:37 - “And some of them said, Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

We Can Trust In The Goodness Of God

- Great possibilities are opened to those who will take Him at His Word and follow His instructions
 - John 11:38-40
- The Father delights in revealing His goodness and glory to strengthen our faith and increase our trust in Him
 - John 11:41-43

Reactions To The Goodness Of God

- In view of the goodness of God, it is time to leave behind everything associated with our stubborn will and our foolish belief that we are in control of the world around us
 - John 11:44 - “And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go.”

Reactions To The Goodness Of God

- Some will see the goodness of God and trust
 - John 11:45 - “Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.”
 - Gal. 6:14 - “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Reactions To The Goodness Of God

- Others will see the will of God and try to assert their control over Him
 - John 11:46-50