

Gospel of John - The Parable of Joy
Chapter 11

I'll try not to repeat Michael Card's points

3-7. The idea of Jesus being particularly fond of some people is a baffling one to me. What makes God favor a person like King David, John the Apostle, or Lazarus? Am I one of those people? How would I know if I was? Does it matter? I mean, I know He loves me, died for me, and I'm His.

9. This is a tough one. Seems to come out of the blue. Maybe He's saying something like, "Don't you see by now that I know what I'm doing? I know when it's time to do something. You still don't get it." Perhaps the reference to 12 hours in a day is along the same line as the whole "The time had not yet come" theme. I'm not sure what it means.

14-15. I imagine that Jesus was pretty exasperated here, and the response of Thomas in verse 16 shows that the disciples truly don't get it.

20-35. Maybe Jesus responded differently to Martha and Mary because of their different approaches to Him, but maybe it all just finally got to Him in verse 35 when he wept. At any rate, I don't see the contrast of sternness toward Martha and tenderness toward Mary that MC points out.

36-44. What was that like for Lazarus? What was he like afterward?

43. I once heard a preacher say something like, "If He hadn't said 'Lazarus,' everybody would've got up!"

45-57. Not much to add to MC here. Unfathomable response to an undeniable miracle: Kill it!