

God of the long way round

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Joy Marsh – Scripture Luke 7:11 and John 11:1-43

Intro

- Have you ever wondered why some people get an instant miracle while others wait for years.
- Some walk into meetings receive instant healings while others suffer for years

This morning if you waiting for a breakthrough. I believe God is saying that your faith needs to be strengthened for the season you find yourself in.

Illustration 1

A friend of mine found herself on a plane which could not land because of strong winds.

The pilot announces that the flight would take longer as planned but he assured the passengers that he would get them to their destination

There are times in our lives God takes us the long way round. We need our faith strengthened and we need to know that God will get us to our destination

Today we are going to find the purpose and reason for the long way around.

If we don't know the purpose and the reason for going the long way round we can easily develop a bad attitude cause we can't seem to understand why some get their instant while some who love God and serves Him faithfully have to hold on for their breakthrough

Does God have favourites? NO

But we have to get to know the God of the long way round just as we have encountered the God of the instant

Example s in the Bible of the instant & long way round

- Remember the time when God told some people to break jars and their enemies would flee?
- While Joshua found himself fighting for days but his enemies kept coming. He was so confused. He then asked God to just hold the sun for longer so he can continue fighting.
- Picture the discussion over a meal. All we needed to do was break a jar while you needed more sunlight but your enemies kept coming

In the New Testament

- There was a crowd and we are told of a woman that shouts JESUS. He would respond and she would receive healing. While others being in the same crowd also shouting would need to wait

Luke 7:11

Instant miracle

- No prayer
- Nor asking no calling out.
- Just a story of a women who lost her son

Jesus heart went out.

It does not say she was a follower. We don't know if she knew him let alone believed in Him

That day she got to know God as miracle worker

Illustration BOX

That day Jesus gave her a gift.

Miracles are what we trusting God for. And he is waiting to give it to us.

This gift is like the coffin. Inside is the miracle of provision

How many times are we not looking for the miracle of provision?

Come on God do it. Fix it. Sort it out. Take them out my life

That day she got her miracle

John 11

Here is someone who Jesus knew and loved and needed the same miracle. They had to go the long way round. Our previous story we don't know much about her. Weather she cared about Jesus let alone believed in Him. But now we are going to read of someone and his household, who loved, cared and served Jesus

Vs1-3

- So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Master, the one you love so very much is sick." [just like we send word through our prayer request]
- The word they sent is the one you love is very sick.
- What do we say? The one who has served so faithfully? Always made sacrifices. Was at every meeting. Now needs your help. Our mind set is God you owe me. It really is no different to the way we cry out

Jesus response in V4

- If we allow God to take us the long way round it will become an occasion and not an instant. God uses occasions to glorify His Son. Why do we always want to settle for the instant?

Joh 11:5

- His love in your season is not in question.

Joh 11:6

- When the instant does not happen we can become inward focus.
- With Lazarus Jesus waited 2 days? Our 2 days could be 2 weeks, 2 months, or 2 years.
- The long way round is not about YOU. But about what will happen along the way.

Joh 11:7 -11

- God's perspective on our issues and our perspective are sometimes so fundamentally different.
- Some things in this prayer requests are asleep. Not dead. Jesus has heard your request

Joh 11:12-16

BOX ILLUSTRATION

- When you allow God to take you the long way round you embrace others on your journey
- It is kind of like pass the parcel
- YOU will get your goodie. But others to will get goodies along the way.
- Going the long way round was for the Disciples.
- They needed to lift their believing to another level

Personal illustration

- My story. For the past 3 years God has taken me the long way round.....

- Our first lesson is not for us but for those on the journey with us. You are about to be given new grounds for believing

Joh 11:17-

Second layer. Martha the eldest. Control freak

- Her believing was boxed. Because He did not respond when she wanted and in the manner she planned. She had the attitude. Well now I first need to see this.
- God could be taking you the long way round because of the control and limitation you have placed on God.
- On the way to Lazarus Martha is challenged in her believe

Joh 11:28-34

All emotional. And out of control. And people who are emotional out of control always gather a crowd.

- It is so lekker to cry. It is no longer about Lazarus but about poor me. The one who loves you. Who washed your feet and when I needed you, you did not come.
- Jesus Response is verse 38
- I believe Jesus wants to kick you out of your emotional crippenes. He wants you to see His plan and purpose.
- For over the past 3 years I have prayed with many of you and trusted God for breakthrough in your live I've realised that if I have not gone the long way round I would not of had the opportunity of my faith strengthened to step out and trust God for breakthrough while trusting God for a breakthrough in my life.
- On his way to Lazarus he deals with the controlling Martha & emotional Mary

Joh 11:35-42

Thirdly on his way to Lazarus He encountered the critics.

- The critics are those always speaking negatively. Well If He loved him why did He not stop him from dying.
- God is wanting to teach the critics in your life a lesson
- Going the long way gather a crowd. And in the crowd you will find the critics. But Jesus loves crowds. Cause then He can teach the critics a lesson. See what I will do.
- If you look at the life of Hope Church. I think there are many critics among us. With the type of thinking. Is this all we doing? Why we not doing what other churches are doing. Look at the numbers. Is all this things necessary?
- If God is taking Hope church the long way round then it is not for us but for those we will be embracing along our journey .Our faith needs to be strengthened on our jouney.Caues the blessing is not only for us but for those journeying with us.

Joh 11:43 Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

- Same miracle. A coffin. But one an instant while the other had to go the long way round.
- For me my revelation was that my next level is not in a position or a title but in serving. And most importantly facing the challenges that come with it.
- God has taken me on this journey. I now find myself connecting with people that I would have never connected with.
- If we go back and collect our gifts along the way we would realise that by going the long way round we have picked up so much more on our journey. Than the instant answer.
- On his way to Lazarus He encountered the disciple.
- He challenged Martha's believing. And Mary being emotionally out of control
- And shows the critics who He is.
- And Lazarus life is given back to him

For some of you here today God is asking you are you prepared to go the Long way round