

June 28, 2023 Bible Study - Procrastination Part 2

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday 28 June 2023 – Spring Semester

Queens Chapel UMC

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### **Facing the Giant of Procrastination**

#### **“The Danger of Putting Off Till Another Day”** **(Part 2 of 3)**

**Q = Is it ever right for a Christian to procrastinate intentionally and postpone working on a task?**

Answer: **No, it’s never right to procrastinate.**

- However, postponing a task can be wise. Remember, procrastination and postponing are two different issues.
- For a believer, postponement should be done with an honest legitimate reason because your reputation as a believer could be damaged if your reason is dishonest

#### **Proverbs 19:1 (NLT)**

“Better to be poor and honest than to be dishonest and a fool.”

Examples of honest legitimate reasons for postponement:

- It isn’t your honest priority
- It will keep you from a previous commitment
- It will compromise your physical health
- It appears urgent, but it isn’t important
- It is important but it is not your task to complete

It is you that should do it, but beginning it now would be premature due to a lack of knowledge

### **Proverbs 19:2**

"Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes."

### **Did Jesus ever intentionally delay?**

Answer: **Yes**

### **John 11:1-22**

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. 2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." 5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days. 7 Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

8 But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

9 Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. 10 But at night there is the danger of stumbling because they have no light." 11 Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

12 The disciples said, "Lord if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" 13 They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

14 So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

16 Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

17 When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. 18 Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, 19, and many people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. 20 When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

There were times recorded in the Gospels when Jesus delayed doing what people wanted in the time frame they expected. Martha and Mary were examples of this.

- Martha and Mary have a legitimate reason to send for Jesus and expect him to come on time.

### **John 11:2b-3**

"...Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

- Jesus knew his friend Lazarus was dying but rather than racing to His friend's side, Jesus intentionally delayed his appearance. And as a result, Lazarus died.

### **John 11:4-5**

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." 5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.

**Q = Why did Jesus delay His coming?**

**Q = Was Jesus intentionally procrastinating?**

## Q = Was Jesus being heartlessly negligent?

Answer: **Not at all**

- 1) Jesus was deeply moved by His friend's death

### **John 11:33-36**

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Then Jesus wept. 36 The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!"

- 2) Jesus knew His Heavenly Father's plan to raise Lazarus from the dead
- 3) Jesus' intention in performing this miracle would do three things:
  - A) The Son of God would be glorified
  - B) People throughout the centuries will believe that He is the Christ, the Son of the Eternal Loving Father
  - C) It would enable those, who believe in Jesus Christ, overcome their fear of sickness and death

### **John 11:25-26a**

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die..."

Note:

The great victory of Christ over sin, death, and all evil was made possible by the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Because Christ died and rose

again, we can face tomorrow with the confidence and hope we have in Christ Jesus.

### **Hebrews 4:15**

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

### **1 Peter 1:3**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Intentional procrastinators avoid taking action for one of five reasons:

#### □ 1) Incapable:

- They choose to avoid action because of a true inability to perform
- Rather than forging ahead and failing, they wisely put the task aside

### **Proverbs 22:3**

"The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty."

#### □ 2) Confused:

- They choose to avoid because of a lack of clarity or a misunderstanding of what to do and how to do it.
- Rather than barge ahead without wisdom, their confusion leads them not to act.

### **James 1:5**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

□ 3) Controlling:

- They choose to avoid action through passive-aggressive tactics in order to control or irritate others indirectly
- Instead of barging forward with what needs to be done, they prioritize their personal agendas

**Philippians 2:21**

"For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."

□ 4) Lazy:

- They refuse to avoid action because of apathy, self-centeredness, or a poor work ethic.
- Rather than develop the discipline to do the undesirable, they do only what they want to do—what they feel like doing.

**Ecclesiastes 10:18**

"Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks."

□ 5) Rebellious:

- They choose to avoid action as a means of defying authority
- Rather than submit to authority, they set themselves up as their own authorities.

**Job 24:13**

"There are those who rebel against the light, who do not know its ways or stay in its paths."

Imagine being an Israelite under the leadership of Moses. You've seen it all:

- **God supernaturally saves**—The 10 plagues & Death crossing over your house to Pharaoh
- **God supernaturally parts** the Red Sea and more than 2,000,000 Israelites walk on dry ground to the other side
- **God supernaturally closes** the Red Sea so the entire Egyptian army that is in hot pursuit drowns as walls of water falls on them

Then God gives this specific directive:

### **Exodus 33:1-3**

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.'

2 I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. **But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.**"

### **Q = What would you do?**

- Procrastinate
- Delay
- Trust God, Why?

### **Part 3**

Q = What is the difference between procrastination and waiting on God?

Q = What is God's heart on Procrastination?