



The Lazarus Life: My Journey of Transformation

A Study Guide for Individual and Small Group Discussion of the Sermon Series





Chapter Two

(Week 2 - January 11)

THE LINGERING JESUS:

Waiting for His Presence

Key Concepts

-  One of the mysteries of the spiritual life is that sometimes Jesus doesn't come when we need him most.
-  Waiting for Jesus to arrive is part of the transformation process.
-  Transformation involves working through our disappointments and disillusionments in life.
-  We have hope in our transformation when we realize that we see today, and God sees eternity.

Individual or Group Questions

1. Jesus chose not to heal Lazarus from a distance. What might have motivated this choice?
2. Place yourself in the Lazarus story. How would you have felt when Jesus stayed away for two days and didn't arrive in time to heal his beloved friend?
3. In the past, how has God not performed as you expected? How did you feel? What did you learn?
4. Is Christ "at a distance" and/or lingering in your life now? If so, describe the circumstances.
5. How could you practice "active waiting" for changes in your life? Be specific about what you could do, or not do.
6. The author says to be transformed, we can practice the discipline of disillusionment. What is this discipline?
7. What illusions have you believed about life? (For example, "The Christian life should be easier than my life is right now." Or, "I thought marriage would fill the emptiness inside of me.") List and briefly describe these illusions as honestly as possible. Then consider how each illusion could be based on a false reality. If you're in a group, write a compiled list of illusions on an easel pad and choose two or three to discuss.
8. How can you cultivate hope as you journey through the transformation process?