

Glorifying God When On Hold

May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness.

(Psalm 35:27)

“Lord,” said Martha to Jesus. “if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21). She and her sister, Mary, had sent word two days before to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was ill. But Jesus had tarried where He was, and now it seemed too late – their brother had died.

Sometimes, we all feel like Mary and Martha, desperate for Jesus to show up exactly when we need Him to show up. Yet when God delays in answering our prayers (such as the healing of Lazarus – it didn’t happen), it is for the purpose of answering in a different way (such as raising Lazarus from the dead). God does this so that He will receive more glory and so that we will know He is God. As Jesus said to His disciples:

‘This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it’ (John 11:4).

When God delays in prospering our business or promoting our newest product, it is so that we may die to our own ideas, our own egos. After the delay, we often experience the joy of experiencing God’s best for us.

As the psalmist states, “May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness.” When God vindicates His servant leaders, He does so that we may shout for joy and gladness and say, “The Lord be exalted, who delights in the wellbeing of His servants” (Psalm 35:27).

In my career and business, I seek to find this vision that will enable me to press through the difficulties and sacrifices that come with pursuing His purpose. The one common theme that has the capacity to cause me to pull together in harmony and without self-destruction is the glory of God. The long delay, the death of self, the growing desire for God’s fame, the eventual vindication I will experience them all as the theory and practice of doing business with God converge.

Brett Johnson

Point To Ponder

God sometimes puts us on hold so that, after the wait, there is less of us and more of Him.