



First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043
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info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Jennifer Johnson
Administrative Asst

Nyadia Thorpe,
Choir Director

Dameron Growe
Brittany Haywood
Susan Walters
Accompanists

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz
Liliana Ortiz
Nursery

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(continued); Women's
Bible Study
- 3 - Church Calendar
- 4 - Worship Volunteer
Schedule
- 5 - February Birthdays,
Finances

Difficult passage?

No matter how you read the Bible, completing it in a year, rereading a portion over and over, or something in between, I expect you will eventually come to a passage of Scripture that is difficult to understand. What should you do about it? What should I do about it?

One option is to set the passage aside until "later". I had done that with the passage I'll use as an example. Now I'd like to try to understand it. In John 11:1-46 we are told twice that Jesus was angry. My difficulty has been, why was He angry, or about what or whom was He angry? By the way, "angry" is what I read in the NLT and *The Message*. At least one other version uses other wording such as "deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (NIV).

In some cases of difficult understanding, it seems to help me to make a list of all the things we see happening in the passage—just a kind of retelling of the story. **Here's my list.**

Mary and Martha send a message to Jesus: "Lazarus [their brother] is sick."

Jesus gets the message.

He stays where He was when He got the message for two days, after discussing Lazarus's condition with His disciples and finally telling them that Lazarus is dead.

Jesus takes his disciples and goes to Lazarus's village.

Martha meets Jesus as He arrives at the outskirts of the village. She complains that if Jesus had been there [sooner implied?], Lazarus would not have died.

Jesus and Martha have a conversation about life after death for those who believe in Him.

Martha goes to Mary and tells her that

Jesus is outside the village and wants to see her.

Mary goes to where Jesus is and makes the same complaint that Martha made (if He had been there Lazarus would not have died).

When Jesus sees Mary weeping and the mourners that had come with her wailing, **He experienced deep anger.** Then He wept.

Jesus asks where Lazarus was buried. They invited Him to come, see.

Jesus arrives at the tomb, **still angry** [implication: anger decreasing?].

Jesus asks that the tomb be opened.

Martha says that the smell will be terrible [another rebuke for Jesus's not coming sooner?].

Jesus gives thanks to the Father for hearing Him, for the benefit of the crowd, so that they will believe that the Father sent Jesus.

Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb; he comes out.

Many believed in Jesus; some told the Pharisees what Jesus had done.

Possible conclusions about what angered Jesus.

The women's lack of faith. Possibly their participation in the apparently customary severe mourning, given that they say they believe in the resurrection. This conclusion is based on Jesus's anger arising at the point where He saw the mourning taking place.

His anticipation that some of the crowd would resist believing that He came from God even after the imminent raising of Lazarus.

Possibly some of both. Also, I can think of other conclusions that seem to be less likely.

(Continued on next page)

Difficult passage? *(Continued from first page)*

What can I learn from this passage?

That Jesus knows about anger. I can count on Him for help if I'm angry.

I'm reminded of the importance to remember that Jesus is God!

"Thank you, Jesus, for this Scripture that points this out and calls us to trust you when it's hard."

Also, I learn that Jesus's plan may not be the logical one according to my kind of logic (He waited two days to go to Lazarus's village).

I might mention **some other approaches** to difficult passages that I could take.

Ask the Holy Spirit for illumination. Jesus said that when He sent the Helper, He would teach us all things.

Read the passage in another translation. Many are available at biblegateway.com.

Ask someone to discuss the passage with me.

Read about the passage in one or more commentaries. It might be best to form my own opinion before doing this to give the Holy Spirit opportunity to be first to guide my thinking.

Paul



Sarah Circle will meet on February 9, 2021
in the home of Joan Brown at 7 pm.

We will be studying Lesson 7 and 8 in the
Women of the Old Testament study guide.



FIRST Presbyterian Church

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	2  7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	3	4  6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	5	6																																																																																											
7 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	8 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	9  7 PM Sarah Circle	10	11	12	13																																																																																											
14 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	15  Newsletter Articles Due! 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	16	17 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20																																																																																											
21 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	22 <div> The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless </div> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	23	24 7 PM Lent Bible Study	25  7:00 PM Session Meeting	26	27																																																																																											
28 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	<div> <div> Jan 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> Mar 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
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**Worship Volunteer Schedule
February 2021**

February 7	Tellers	Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova
February 14	Tellers	Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
February 21	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
February 28	Tellers	Joan Brown & Teresa Reed

The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with *peace*.

Psalm 29:11 (NIV)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Impact Youth
Fearless Youth Group

— 5:30 p.m.
— 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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February Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org. Thank you.

Candice Morris, February 2	Leo Skinner, February 15
Carol McKinney, February 4	Claudia Griffith, February 16
Christy Favors, February 6	Susan Walters, February 22
Triston Russell, February 8	Nadine Daum, February 23
Billie Cowand, February 10	Gary Simons, February 26
Paul Griffith, February 12	Gary Morris, February 28



2020 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
December	\$23,794*	\$36,044
Jan - Dec	\$277,107 + \$28,541**	\$285,993

*\$2,600 of this for building fund
**PPP loan from government