

John 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Analysis

Jesus expresses gladness 'for your sakes'—not about Lazarus' death but about the opportunity for strengthened faith. His absence from Bethany was providential, allowing death to occur and greater glory to result. The purpose clause 'that ye may believe' indicates the miracle's evidential design. This demonstrates God's sovereignty: even Jesus' geographical location serves divine purposes. The phrase anticipates growth in the disciples' faith through witnessing resurrection power.

Historical Context

Jesus' ministry consistently aimed at deepening disciples' faith through signs. John's Gospel emphasizes these signs as faith-producing evidence of Christ's deity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can we find joy in difficult circumstances when we perceive their faith-building purpose?

2. What does this teach about God's sovereignty over seemingly insignificant details (timing, location)?
3. In what recent difficulties can you see God's purpose to strengthen your faith?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	χαίρω	δι'	ὑμᾶς	ἵνα	πιστεύσητε	ὅτι	οὐκ
And	I am glad	for	your sakes	to the intent	ye may believe	that	not
G2532	G5463	G1223	G5209	G2443	G4100	G3754	G3756
ἡμην	ἐκεῖ·	ἀλλ'	ἄγωμεν	πρὸς	αὐτόν		
I was	there	nevertheless	let us go	unto	him		
G2252	G1563	G235	G71	G4314	G846		

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 2:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Isaiah 65:8 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.

Isaiah 54:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

John 11:4 (Parallel theme): When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

John 2:11 (Faith): This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 17:19 (Parallel theme): And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

John 12:30 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

