

SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Purpose in Your Pain | Keith Simon | November 8, 2026

Article Review: "How to Honor Your Maker with Your Wallet"

- How did the article shift your perspective on money?
- What were your answers to questions 5 & 6 from the article?
    - What step can you take to increasingly honor God in your financial life?
    - What other takeaways do you have from this guide?

Opening Question: We live in a fast-paced, consumer-driven society. When do you find yourself struggling to wait patiently?

Sermon Discussion

John 11:3-6 (NIV)

3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." **4** When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." **5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days

1. John says Jesus stayed two more days after hearing Lazarus was sick *because* he loved them. What can Jesus' delay feel like to us instead of love? Why might we need to hear that even when there is a delay in answering or a "no" to our prayers that it's not because Jesus doesn't love us?

John 11:14-15 (NIV)

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

2. Keith said Jesus had "something better to give us than a life that turns out the way we want it to turn out." What is more important than having a safe, comfortable life?

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV)

17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, **18** yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

3. Habakkuk lists everything his life depended on falling apart, and then says "yet I will rejoice." What would our "though the fig tree does not bud" list look like in our day and age? What does it take to get to "yet"?

John 11:21, 35-36 (NIV)

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died… 35 Jesus wept.
36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

4. Both sisters say the same thing: "Lord, if you had been here." Jesus doesn't correct them. He listens, goes to the tomb, and weeps. What does this tell us about how Jesus responds to our honest questions and grief?

John 11:21-27 (NIV)

22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

5. Martha says "even now" and "Yes, Lord, I believe" before she sees anything. But a few verses later (v. 39), she objects to rolling the stone away. What does Martha teach us about what real faith looks like? Where are you tempted to stop hoping because it feels safer?

6. Keith said Lazarus's resurrection "wasn't a pattern but a preview." Why does that difference matter? How does Jesus' resurrection change what our losses and unanswered prayers mean?

Sharing and Prayer

Keith described three groups of people in the room:

- those in the gap between the prayer and the answer that hasn't come
- those on the other side of suffering still processing what it meant
- those not in crisis right now

Share: Which one of the above describes you today?

Have each person finish Habakkuk's prayer for their own life: "Lord, though _____, yet I will trust you."

Have someone close in prayer.

What to Do for Next Time

- This week, do the worksheet "The Gospel for Bruised Reeds." After the next sermon on 11/15, think through the chapter on justice from the book *Discipleship Essentials* before our next meeting.
- Both can be found at this link: https://info.thecrossingchurch.com/fall-2026-sermon-discussion