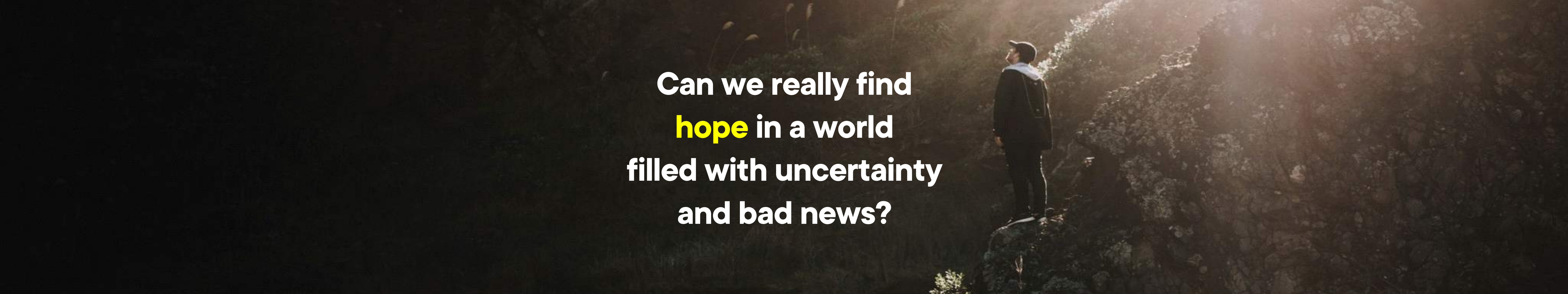


A wide, horizontal photograph of a stone wall at night. The wall is composed of rectangular, textured stone blocks. A single, vertical, light-colored pillar stands in the center of the wall. The wall and pillar are illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is dark, suggesting a night sky or a dark interior. The text 'When all seems lost' is overlaid in the center of the image, with 'When all seems' in a white, serif font and 'lost' in a white, italicized serif font.

When all seems *lost*

A person wearing a dark jacket and a cap, with a backpack, stands on a rocky outcrop. They are looking out over a vast, sunlit landscape that appears to be a field of tall grass or reeds. The sun is low in the sky, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene from the right. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

**Can we really find
hope in a world
filled with uncertainty
and bad news?**

A photograph of a stone wall at night, illuminated from below. The wall is made of rough-hewn, stacked stones. The lighting creates a warm, golden glow on the lower part of the wall, while the upper part and the surrounding area are in deep shadow. The quote is centered on the wall in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**The acid test of someone's religion
is how much help it will give
when the time comes to die.**

John 11 – The Death and Resurrection of Lazarus

¹ Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

² It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

³ So the sisters sent word to Him, saying,
"Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

⁴ But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

⁶ So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

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Why?

A photograph of a dark interior space, possibly a hallway or a room, with a curved wall on the left. A row of four windows is visible on the right, through which bright sunlight is streaming, creating a hazy, golden glow. The word "Why?" is overlaid in the center in a bold, black font.



John 11:17

So when Jesus came, He found that
he had already been in the tomb **four days**.

The Significance of the Fourth Day

Hope was gone

By the fourth day, death was certain; the body would have begun to decompose.

Mourning had started

The community had come to grieve with the family

Perfect moment to reveal His power

Jesus to glorify Father God

Jesus was fully in control

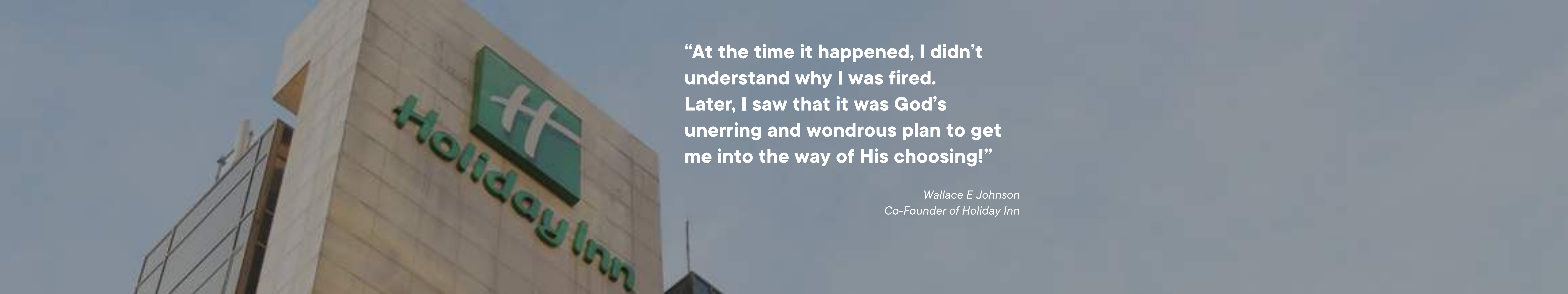
The timing and flow of events were in His hands



#1 God is in control, even in difficult times.

God's delay is not His denial.
God does not work according to our timing.

Application: *Rely on God*



“At the time it happened, I didn’t understand why I was fired. Later, I saw that it was God’s unerring and wondrous plan to get me into the way of His choosing!”

*Wallace E Johnson
Co-Founder of Holiday Inn*



God's ways may differ from our preferences ...
but He is always in control.

What else can we learn about Jesus?

John 11:8-16

- ⁸ The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"
- ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.
- ¹⁰ "But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."
- ¹¹ This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep."
- ¹² The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."
- ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.
- ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead
- ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."
- ¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

John 11:8-16

Jesus knew what lay ahead – danger, opposition, even death
Yet He chose to go, despite the risk to His own safety
Because He cares.

John 11:20-27

²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.

²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*

²² *"Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."*

²³ Jesus said to her, *"Your brother will rise again."*

²⁴ Martha said to Him, *"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

²⁵ Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,*

²⁶ *and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

²⁷ She said to Him, *"Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."*

John 11:28-36

- ²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called **Mary** her sister, saying secretly, *"The Teacher is here and is calling for you."*
- ²⁹ And when **she** heard it, **she** got up quickly and was coming to Him.
- ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.
- ³¹ Then the Jews who were with **her** in the house, and consoling **her**, when they saw that **Mary** got up quickly and went out, they followed **her**, supposing that **she** was going to the tomb to weep there.
- ³² Therefore, when **Mary** came where Jesus was, **she** saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*
- ³³ When Jesus therefore saw **her** weeping, and the Jews who came with **her** also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,
- ³⁴ and said, *"Where have you laid him?"* They said to Him, *"Lord, come and see."*
- ³⁵ Jesus wept.
- ³⁶ So the Jews were saying, *"See how He loved him!"*

Martha

²¹ **Martha** then said to Jesus,
*"Lord, if You had been here,
my brother would not have died."*

²⁵ Jesus said to **her**,
*"I am the resurrection and the
life; he who believes in Me will
live even if he dies,*

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Do you believe this?"*

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³⁵ Jesus wept.

Same Jesus, same compassion
Different approaches

John 11:35

Jesus wept.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

He cares, even in our hardest moments:

- He risked His own safety – *v16*
- He met Martha and Mary in different ways
- His love was evident to all – *v36*
- He made space for human grief and emotion
- He wept ... even though He would raise Lazarus. Why?

John 11:33-34

³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,

³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."



What did Jesus see?

The *hopelessness* of people without God.

#2 God still cares for us, even in bad times.

He sees our brokenness.
He knows and responds to us personally.

*“Seng Lee, I am so thankful to the Lord.
I can rest very well now because He is with me.
I know He cares for me so I can just rest.
It doesn't bother me any longer where I go - I know my God cares for me.”*

- Alex Chua (May 1990)



#2 God still cares for us, even in bad times.

He sees our brokenness.
He knows and responds to us personally.

Application: *Receive His love*

John 11:38-44

- ³⁸ So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
- ³⁹ Jesus said, *“Remove the stone.”* Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, *“Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”*
- ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, *“Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”*
- ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, *“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.*
- ⁴² *I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”*
- ⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, *“Lazarus, come forth.”*
- ⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, *“Unbind him, and let him go.”*

John 11:38-44

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#3 God can change our bad times for good.

Nothing is final in Jesus.

God turns our mess into a message,
our trials into a testimony, our pain into His purpose.

Application: Rest in Him

**Surrender our bad times
to Jesus, our Living Hope!**



When all seems *lost*

#1 God is in control, even in difficult times.

Application: Rely on God

#2 God still cares for us, even in bad times.

Application: Receive His love

#3 God can change our bad times for good.

Application: Rest in Him

John 11: 25-26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
Do you believe this?"







1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.



When all seems lost ...

Believe in Jesus

He's in control • He cares • He can change our situation

