

## Walking with Jesus 11

### John 11

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 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,** 7 **and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”**

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17 **On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.** 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 **“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 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?”**

### Vs. 6,7

**6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”**

- Jesus' Disciples along with Martha & Mary are witnessing something for the first time in their relationship with God:
- God's Sovereign Timing
- There is a maturing of things...
- With God it's not enough to do the right thing, but to do the right thing at the right time...
- God is sovereign in his timing...
- Like fruit on a tree is ripe at the right time and bitter if taken too soon...
- God will move in the right way at the right time...

### **Vs. 17**

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

- The Jews had kind of a superstitious belief that when someone died their spirit would hover near their body for up to 3 days and on the 4th day their spirit would leave and not return.
- This was the point of no return or resuscitation in their minds.
- Lazarus was all the way dead

### **Vs. 22,21**

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

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

- This part amazes me and shows how our human nature places expectations on God.
- Mary's expectation of Jesus took her from washing his feet with her hair to staying at home when he arrived...
- Mary was offended with Jesus because he didn't do it the way she thought...
- Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- There is an important lesson for every follower of Jesus here - God is God and you are not...

- God is Sovereign in the things that he does and he has a purpose and a timing in everything...

### **Vs. 23-26**

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?”

- Jesus boldly challenged Martha to trust that He was the source of resurrection and life...
- Jesus is the champion over death...
- While humanity in general fears death, the Christian can only fear dying. For the non believer death is like a lingering prison sentence. For the believer death is simply making a transition from an old life to a new life. The believer will never die.

*“Those that believe in Jesus Christ appear to die, but yet they live.  
They are not in the grave, they are forever with the Lord.  
They are not unconscious they are with their Lord in Paradise.  
Death cannot kill a believer, it can only usher them into a freer form of  
life.” (Spurgeon)*

### **Vs. 28**

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside.

**“The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”** 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

Jesus is the master of Restoration:

In Martha - Jesus Renews Hope

In Mary - Jesus Restores Relationship

In Lazarus - Jesus Resurrects Life

And if you think Jesus doesn't care check this out:

### **Vs. 33-36**

33 When Jesus saw her (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

### **35 Jesus wept.**

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Think about this for a minute:

Jesus the Son of God wept...

Jesus, God in the flesh wept...

Did you know that God feels...

He feels like we feel...

He feels joy, laughter & sadness...

He is not like you, you are like him - He created you in his likeness...

The world can now see, because of Jesus, that God can weep...

### **Vs. 38-44**

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone,"

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "**Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

## **Vs. 39**

Jesus said, "Remove the stone,".

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

What a picture of How Jesus brings resurrection life...

First the Stone had to be Removed...

The stone can be a representation of a lot of things... Like Pride, fear, resistance to God...

Jesus said, Take away the stone - The thing that stood between Lazarus and God...

Even in our own lives, there can be something like a big rock that we place between us and God...

We can stand behind it, but God says roll that thing out of the way...

That thing that keeps it in the dark...

That thing that keeps it hidden...

That thing that covers up the stink and the death...

Like with Lazarus, let that thing be exposed to the power of God...

It reminds me of **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

It takes courage to Roll away the stones that stand between us and God...

You know why - Because we know what's on the inside stinketh...

## **KJV**

Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."

Can I tell you if Jesus says Roll Away the Stone, even if what's on the inside stinketh, He knows how to deal with it...

And when we do, something Miraculous takes place... He turns that thing that is dead, into life again...

## **Vs. 40**

Then Jesus said, **“Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”**

## **Vs 43,44**

Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, **“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”**

## **Closing:**

In John 11

Jesus Renews Hope

Jesus Restores Relationship

Jesus Resurrects Life

In John 8

We saw how Jesus loved someone he didn't know - The Woman Caught in Adultery...

In John 11 We see how Jesus loved someone he did know...

Sometimes were guilty of thinking God would do that for someone else but not me...

He loves you like he loves Lazarus...

Jesus says to you today - Roll Away the Stone

You may say - Lord I don't want you to see it... It stinks

He wants to say to you - **if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”**

**Do You Believe?**