

GROWING DEEPER

Story Behind the Story (Read John 11:1-6)

Why did Jesus not go to Lazarus right away? Since Jesus knows this world isn't all there is to reality, he was motivated by something even more important than his friend's physical wellbeing. How can we prioritize spiritual reality over physical reality? How might we miss what God is doing if we have preconceived notions about how He should work?

The Lord's Confidence, our Confidence (Read John 11:7-16)

Jesus makes a shocking statement that Lazarus had died and he was glad. For Jesus death is harmless (Ps 23), death is restful (Revelation 14:13) and death is only temporary (2 Cor 5:8). Jesus would use Lazarus' death to glorify himself and awaken faith in many. Why is it so important to Jesus that God is glorified? Why is God's glory more important than our physical health? In what unique ways can only trials test and refine our faith? How is it that through trials faith is either refined to shine or exposed as ultimately empty?

The Believer's Joy (Read John 11:17-27)

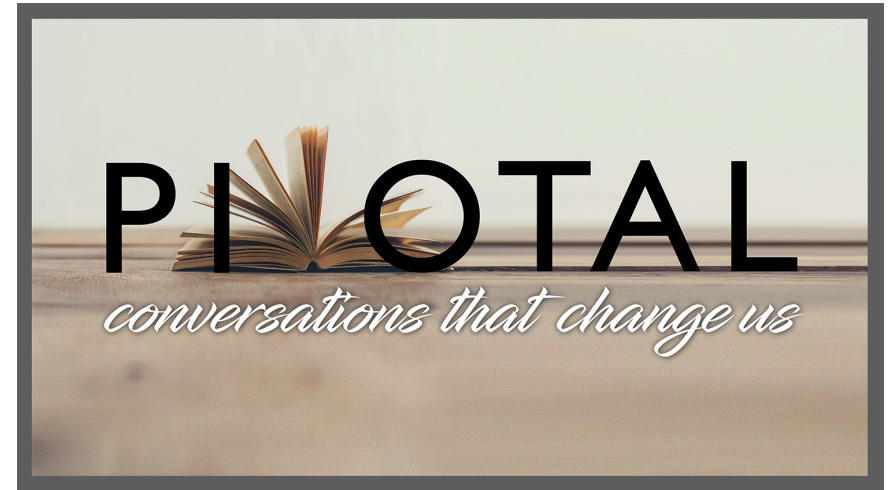
Martha does three things when she gets to Jesus. Martha immediately brings up the past (v22), she offers religious platitudes (v22) and she looks at far off future events for her hope (v24). How does Jesus pull Martha's future hope into the present and why is that so important? How is Lazarus' resurrection a picture for all believers?

Deep Emotions (Read John 11:28-37)

Jesus doesn't push against the flow of Mary's heart's sadness but enters into it with the ministry of tears. How have you seen and experienced the ministry of tears in your life? How can we discern the difference between the need to use the ministry of truth, like Jesus did with Martha vs the ministry of tears?

The Great Hope (Read John 11:38-46)

Notice that the narrative says many believed, but not all. Why would someone refuse to believe in God despite overwhelming evidence? How can we focus on Jesus this Easter season? What trials are you experiencing and how might they refine your faith? What ways can we be praying for each other to strengthen our faith?



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SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH

WE EXIST TO BRING GLORY TO GOD AND HELP PEOPLE BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

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*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

John 11:25 (ESV)

