

**The sickness of Lazarus brings DEATH**

During his travels, Jesus met many people who became friends and supporters that loved him deeply. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were a brother and sisters living in a home in Bethany near Jerusalem where Jesus often spent time (Luke 10:38). While Jesus was living in the wilderness, Lazarus got ill to the point of death. *Living for God doesn't eliminate difficulty in life* (John 16:33). Upon hearing it, Jesus waited two days before leaving for Bethany to let him die. Although God loves and cares for His children, sometimes He allows infirmity or tragedy for His greater purpose or cause—one we may not understand on this side of eternity (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28). *God's goodness is sometimes delivered with human hardship!*

**The threat of violence brings RESOLVE**

Three months earlier, the Pharisees tried to kill Jesus for claiming to be the 'Son of God' (John 10:31-39). Because of this, when the disciples see Jesus not leave immediately for Bethany, they assume he is scared to go near Jerusalem. But, when he eventually goes—to their credit—they go also knowing they're probably going to die there with him. *Don't let the circumstances around you or the feelings within you affect the calling from God before you!*

**The arrival of Jesus brings LIFE**

Arriving in Bethany, Martha goes out to meet Jesus and says he could have healed Lazarus while he lived. She doesn't blame him for not coming sooner but believes even now God will do what he asks. Martha is often seen as pragmatic, worried, and unspiritual, but here, even in hurt, she shows unwavering faith in Jesus (Luke 10:40). *Don't let a broken heart affect a solid walk with God!* When Jesus says he will 'rise again,' she agrees, as most Jews believed in a physical resurrection at the end of time. However, Jesus didn't mean later, he meant right now! *Where Jesus is, life is!* Jesus claims to be the *personal* resurrector of bodies who is able to give spiritual life—which was a direct claim of divinity. While all people's bodies will die, their souls will not. Then, on the 'Last Day' (Great White Throne judgment), everyone will get resurrected, eternal bodies fit for heaven or hell (Rev. 20:1-15). Believers can trust Jesus now and forever. *Though believers may die physically, they will live eternally!*