



DAY TWO KODI SELLS

Greater Glory

Greetings Victory family! Welcome to day two of our Unto the Lord fast. I'm so privileged once again to share with you what the Lord has laid on my heart concerning "The Heart of Worship." It's a topic that is very near and dear to my heart. We've just come from a time of celebrating the resurrection power of Jesus. Once again, in a much different angle, I want to touch on that subject. I'm confident that the start of this fast is already proving to be fruitful, however, I want to really challenge you to allow this to be a pruning and deep soaking devotional for your spirit today. Have your ears ready and tuned into the frequency of Heaven. Let's ready ourselves and dive into the "Throne Zone" together!

The Lord early on months ago had impressed upon me the story of Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. At the time I was unsure why. Also, I had to question the subject matter of how this correlated to "The Heart of Worship." However, I see now that He has highlighted so much through this passage of scripture. It's lengthy so please stay with me. Let's read this story together in the book of John.

John 11:1-27 (NKJV)

"Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of

God may be glorified through it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought 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 one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” 11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” 12 Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” 13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him.” 16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.” 17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. 20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But 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 at the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

I want to start off by focusing on Martha. Even when confronted with heavy grief over her brother for four days she decided to focus on her faith instead of being completely overtaken or overwhelmed by

her own emotions and grieving. This is seen a total of three times, once in verse 22, another in verse 24, and lastly in verse 27. It is this true heart of worship that's found in beautiful tension between sorrow and faith. The holding onto the Lord in the process of the waiting and uncertainty. Grappling with the unknown, all the while knowing that it's already been sealed and finished by the blood and finished work of Jesus.

Jesus knew the outcome of Lazarus already. He says in verse 4, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God." Jesus knew that by staying an extra two days where He was, it would allow for the physical death to take place. Jesus also knew that in the resurrection and revealing of life unto Lazarus that God would have the greater glory! This became the new pillar and stronghold of Lazarus' own testimony, a very gift from Christ Himself. In our own lives, will you allow something to die to see God raise up something very unique, new, and different that He can use for His greater glory? Will you allow true worship and faith to blossom in your spirit in the process of waiting and in the unknown? Will you allow yourself to no longer press into pessimism but lean into optimism about what God has already done?

(John 11:28-44 AMP)

28 After she had said this, she left and called her sister Mary, privately whispering [to her], "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." 29 And when she heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. 31 So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her, saw how quickly Mary got up and left, they followed her, assuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came [to the place] where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her sobbing, and the Jews who had come with her also sobbing, He was deeply moved in spirit [to the point of anger at the sorrow caused by death] and was troubled, 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him [as a close friend]!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the blind man's eyes, have kept this man from dying?" 38 So Jesus, again deeply moved within [to the point of anger], approached the tomb. It was a cave, and a boulder was lying against it [to cover the entrance]. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the deadman, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be an offensive odor, for he has been dead four days! [It is hopeless!]" 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe [in Me], you will see the glory of God [the expression of His excellence]?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes [toward heaven] and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 I know that You always hear Me and listen to Me; but I have said this because of the people standing around, so that they may believe that You have sent Me [and that You have made Me Your representative]." 43 When He had said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 Out came the man who had been dead, his hands and feet tightly wrapped in burial cloths (linen strips), and with a [burial] cloth wrapped around his face. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and release him."

The earlier half of this passage has Martha going to bring Mary to Jesus. In verses 32 and 33 Mary fell at the feet of Jesus just like in the day she anointed His feet with oil and wiped them with her hair. This time however it was in unbelief and choosing to focus on what could have or should have happened, rather than focusing on the present task at hand. Jesus had a plan, but Mary lacked faith. In verse 35 it says, "Jesus wept." As much as we would all like to believe it was weeping because Jesus felt deep grief for Lazarus as a friend, that was not it at all. There was a lack of faith and unbelief from the people in the room. Jesus became emotional out of the spirit. He was moved to a righteous anger towards death which caused Him to weep. Death was getting the greater glory in the room.

In verse 40 Jesus says, "Did I not say that if you believe [in Me], you will see the greater glory of God?" He then went forward and called

Lazarus out of the tomb which caused mass belief in Him and the power and authority of God the Father. This was a necessary act for those with unbelief and doubt, including Mary.

I want to ask a couple more very challenging questions: Do we as the church and believers in the body need to see miracles too in order to validate our faith in what Jesus can do? Are we willing to live a life without seeing “physical” miracles manifest and still have a heart of worship unto our Father? I pray and hope so!

Let's Pray...

Thanks for joining me today Victory family. I pray you have a stretching, beautiful rest of the week. I always look forward to worshipping together and seeking His face as the body of Christ!