

6/19

SNAPSHOT NUMBER SIX
The Raising of Lazarus
John 11:17-44

Key Verse 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I myself am the resurrection and the life, the one who is believing in me, even if he die, shall live.'"

TEXT

- v.17 Then Jesus having come found that he had been already four days in the tomb.
- v.18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles.
- v.19 Now many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary in order that they might comfort them concerning their brother.
- v.20 Then Martha, as soon as he heard that Jesus was coming, went out to meet him, but Mary was sitting in the house
- v.21 Then Martha said to Jesus Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- v.22 And now I am knowing that whatever you may ask God, God will give it to you.
- v.23 Jesus is saying to her, "Your brother will arise"
- v.24 Martha is saying to him, I am knowing that he will arise in the resurrection on the last day.
- v.25 Jesus said to her, "I myself am the resurrection and the life, the one who is believing in me, even if he die, shall live.
- v.26 And everyone who is living and believing in me shall positively never die. (Shall by no means die into the ages) Are you believing this?
- v.27 She is saying to Him, "Yes, Lord, I have believed (and still do) that you are the Christ the Son of God, who was to come into the world.
- v.28 And having said this she went off and secretly called Mary, her sister saying, "The teacher is here and is calling for you."
- v.29 Now as soon as she heard, she arised at once and went to Him.
- v.30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha met Him.
- v.31 Therefore the Jews, those who were with her in the house and who were comforting her, having seen Mary that she had arisen quickly and gone out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb in order that she might weep there.
- v.32 Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was, having seen HIM, fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- v.33 Then Jesus, when he saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping was deeply moved in His spirit and troubled himself.
- v.34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They are saying to Him, "Lord, come and see."
- v.35 Jesus wept
- v.36 Then the Jews were saying, Behold, how he was loving him
- v.37 But certain ones of them said, Was not this man able, who opened the eyes of the blind, to have caused that even this one should not die?
- v.38 Then Jesus again moved deeply in Himself is coming to the tomb now it was a cave, and a stone was lying upon it.

Fathers

Bill McCartney, head football coach at the University of Colorado, tells of a greeting-card company that gave away free Mother's Day cards at a penitentiary. All the inmates had to do was to agree to sign and address the card. So great was the response, the company ran out of cards and had to rush in additional boxes.

The leaders of the company then decided to do the same thing for Father's Day. They sent word to the prisoners ahead of time, and this time boxes arrived with an abundance of cards.

But no prisoners showed up. Not one. Not a single person came to send his dad a Father's Day card.

Think about that a moment. As you probably realize, our prisoners are overflowing with men and women who never had a normal, functioning father. Most inmates grew up in homes where the father had abandoned his family responsibilities.

These men did not find their fathers worthy of honor. In fact, I doubt if many could even find their fathers.

pp. 277-8

(36-42)

The Mint-Flavored Oasis

It gets pretty crowded around the oasis this time of year. People from all over are here drinking of this wonderful water. There's nothing like it, you know, in all of the desert. However, we just had some news. John just brought word of a neighbor seen a few hundred yards out there dying of thirst. His description made cold chills run all over me. It's tough to think about. John is great with words, you know. He can make you think it's you dying.

Now John said he's gonna get up a little slide presentation to go along with what he shares, because we've formed a kind of a club. We call it "The Desert Dwellers Who Have Found the Water." We meet every week. We have officers. We do the whole bit. We talk about how we came to the water and how we learned to drink.

Right now there's a discussion. It's an argument actually, as to whether the water in well "A" or "B" is better. You see some prefer "A" because they say the water is more pure. Others say "B" is cooler. I don't really know. I've tasted them both. Seems to me they're just about the same since the wells are only twenty feet apart. But people argue anyway.

One time our club sent a scout out to find and rescue the thirsty. He did alright for a while. But you know carrying delirious and dying people to the water of life is very hard. It's lonely. It's thankless work. And when some of the old timers criticized his methods he just simply quit.

Now there are times when our water goes to waste. Actually overflowing the well because there aren't enough people to drink it. It's a shame to see water going to waste while people die of thirst. Some speak of forming a search and rescue party but the person has to have the gift, you know, to do that kind of work.

The children, you ask. Well, you've noticed there are not many children here. You see, we believe they have to find the well for themselves so we never try to influence them. It's funny though. Some of them have known all of their lives where their mom and dad quench their thirst but they still act like they're lost. And they never come near the water. I guess that's just kids for you.

We're having some excitement in the group right now. Somebody seems to claim to have found a mint-flavored oasis just over the next sand dune. We've lost some of our members to them. I can understand you know, people want variety. Water has very little taste. And somehow if we could make it more exotic without losing any of its thirst-quenching power I think I'd get excited about it. I get a little bored with just the same old thing day in and day out.

We had a funeral yesterday, and it left us all very disturbed. A neighbor died of thirst. Doesn't make any sense. He lived within yards of the oasis. Night after night he heard our songs drifting across the sand telling about the wonderful characteristics of our water. Yet he never once came here, and he died of thirst.

You know something though. We did right by him. At his funeral we said good things. We didn't even admit what everyone

knew, that the poor guy died of thirst. We even put a symbol of a water bucket on his tombstone. Thought it would make his family feel better and it sure took away some of our guilt.

Whenever our members go out into the sand dunes we caution them against gaudy displays of their water canteens. You can get criticized for wearing your water on your sleeve, you know.

Our big topic this year is our organization's name. Someone has shortened it from "Desert Dwellers Who Have Found the Water" to various terms like "The Unthirsty" or "The Satisfied" or maybe "The Water Lovers." But you know, we've all agreed on what to call those who are dying of thirst in the dunes. We simply call them "Deserted."

(From "Faith Is the Victory" by Robert Kraning © 6/27/93 First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, 2801 North Brea Boulevard, Fullerton, CA 92635 • (714)529-5544)

INTRODUCTION:

The other day my good friend Randy chided me for having such a big bottle of Scope mouthwash. I told him that was the only size they had at Sam's and I had to learn a new principle:

By buying a lot you can save a little.

Erma Bombeck has a great article called the:

"Wal-Mart metamorphosis"

Something really strange happens to me when I'm in a Wal-Mart store. It's as if a metamorphosis takes place. I change from a mild-mannered boutique looker into a power-driven shopping machine.

It begins in the parking lot. I tell myself if I can't find a spot near the front door, I'll go home. It's no big deal. I don't need anything. I'm just there to look.

The longer I have to circle, the more pumped up I become. If I don't get inside that store and get my hands around a bargain--and soon--I'm going to hyperventilate.

I even change physically. No longer am I a woman who shops to be seen. In a Wal-Mart, no one cares. An Elvis sighting rates only a bored glance. If George Bush asked directions to paint thinner, 10 people would yell, "If it had been a snake, it would have bitten him."

Mostly what scares me is what can only be described as the "I need this!" hormone. When it kicks in, I am like a woman who has just traveled by dogsled over 500 miles to get supplies for a mining camp for the year before I return. I need supplies of bulk proportions, like drums of paint, cartons of paper towels and crates of antifreeze. I also need a peach parakeet, a Christmas-tree skirt kit with sequins to attach, a case of bamboo shoots, and a pair of floral leggings that make me look like a Disney parking lot from the rear.

I need an ice chest shaped like Marge Simpson, a plastic topiary tree, a smoke alarm and a key ring with a scorpion laminated in it.

To look at my cart, one would never suspect there are only two in our family. There are enough staples to last until the thaw--if I didn't live in the desert.

Stores like Wal-Mart that have the ambience of a monster truck-pulling contest in progress have sprung up all over the country. They are enormously successful. They are like giant garage sales without the chips in the candy dishes and the lamps that need rewiring.

They can sell 100 pounds of cat food to a dog owner, knitting needles to someone who doesn't know which end to hold the needles, and a bicycle water bottle to someone who thinks it's a plant mister.

All I know is, with 36 rolls of toilet tissue in my bathroom, my longevity is assured. I'm too cheap to die.

(From Universal Press Syndicate, "At Wit's End"
by Erma Bombeck)

Matthew 6:31-34

Do not be anxious then, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "With what shall we clothe ourselves?" For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

In our study of 1 Thessalonians we are making a SPIRITUAL CHECKUP.

Examining our hearts before the Lord.

We have raised 2 QUESTIONS to this point:

QUESTION #1:

* DID WE MAKE THE RIGHT START IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS?

It is first things first. We must enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

QUESTION #2:

ARE YOU A PHONY?

The 2nd study is very closely related in that we are phonies if we have not come into that relationship. Our religion is just a performance before people. It is also possible to be in relationship and out of fellowship. We find that we have to fake it in order to make it.

A 3rd problem that could present itself to us and keep us from normal development would be SATAN'S HINDERING TACTIC.

Improving Your Serve by Charles R. Swindoll

"Want a vivid illustration? Dieting. Oh, just the word brings up painful memories. Especially when I add exercising and jogging. Who hasn't had the experience? We finally get sick and tired of our flab. Zippers start ripping out. Buttons pop off. The car leans dangerously to one side when we get in. The scales we step on punch out a little card that says, Only one at a time, please. We laugh understandingly at Erma Bombeck's continual battle with the bulge. You may remember, she's the one who said something like, 'I'm not telling you what I weigh but when I measure my girth and then step on the scales, I ought to be a 90 foot redwood.'"

Improving Your Serve by Charles R. Swindoll

"Okay, we're going to thin down. In the fresh enthusiasm of zeal, we buy \$60 sneakers, a couple of \$85 jogging outfits, we join the local spa (another \$350) and we blow the dust off that miserable "Count Those Calories" booklet we bought back in the mid-seventies. We're going to shave off 30 pounds. The very first day we start with a flash. We hit the road running like we are on fire. We drop our intake to 700 calories a day. We choke down dry toast, cottage cheese, sliced tomatoes and boiled egg. We snack on stuff that tastes like canary mix and we sip on bitter herb tea until we think we are going to gag. By the third day we are so sore we can only trot a half a block, so we get up later. The Thanksgiving season brings too many temptations so we fudge. And finally gorge. In less than a month, our blimp is back in the hangar. And when the urge to exercise comes over us, we just lie down quietly until the urge goes away.

I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression by Erma Bombeck

I have dieted continuously for the last two decades and lost a total of 758 pounds. By all calculations, I should be hanging from a charm bracelet. Although I kid Weight Watchers a lot, it is the only organization in which I ever lost a great deal of weight. But I fought them. Every Thursday morning, a group of us had to "weigh in" before the lecture. Our ritual was enough to boggle the imagination. We got together a checklist of precautions before we actually stepped on the scale. Bathroom? Check. Water pill? Check. Have you removed underwear, wedding rings, nail polish? Check. Set aside shoes, corn pads and earrings? Check. Are you wearing a summer dress beneath your winter coat? Check.

The first week I stepped on the scale and my instructor said, "you have gained." (Next week I cut my hair.)

The next week, she said, "You have lost eight ounces, but that is not enough." (I had the fillings in my teeth removed.)

The third week, I had dropped a pound, but my instructor was still not pleased. (I had my tonsils taken out.)

Finally, she really chewed me out. She accused me of not sticking to the diet and not taking it seriously. That hurt.

"I didn't want to tell you," I said, "but I think I am pregnant."

"How far?" she said coldly, clicking her ballpoint pen to make a notation on my card. "Possibly three days," I said. She glowered, "Any other excuses?"

"Would you believe I have a cold and my head is swollen?" "NO." "How about I was celebrating the Buzzard's return to Hinkley, Ohio, and had butter on my popcorn?" She tapped her pen impatiently on the card and stared at me silently.

"Lint in the navel?" I offered feebly. "How about first one at the trough?" she asked dryly. I learned quickly never to argue with a woman who had the scales on her side. I saw my old instructor the other day and she eyed me carefully. "When are you returning to class?" "As soon as I have my appendix removed," I said. "I'm not sure, but I think I heard her moan."

Slim and Trouble were ol' pards--
But he always told the truth.

"You see, Miss Addy, at the ranch
This here lowdown coyote
The last few nights done et six hens
And killed Ma's best milk goat.

"And last night when Pa heard a noise
Out in the chicken pen,
He grabbed his gun and said to Ma,
'That coyote's back again.'

"'Stay back,' he yelled to all us kids,
'I wouldn't want ya hurt!'
He was naked as a jaybird--
No boots, no pants, no shirt!

"To the henhouse on all fours he crawled
Like an Injun on the snoop.
Then he stuck the double barrel
Through the window of the coop.

"As he stared into the darkness,
With coyotes on his mind,
Our ol' hound Zeke ^{was} done woke up
And come sneakin' up behind.

"Then we all looked on plumb helpless
As Pa was cold-nosed without warnin'.
Miss Addy, we been cleanin' chickens
Since three o'clock this mornin'!"

pp. 78-79
(41-64)

Music

- ① walk out
 - ② when the phone
 - ③ Jam just a dangling
- Low Expectations

Got up This Morning: "What's A Young Guy like You doing in An old body like That? "

Humor

The Preacher's Horse

LeRoy Jones

The Preacher saw this Cowhand come a-walking up the lane--
His saddle on his shoulder and his face was marked with
pain.

The Preacher said, "Just come right in and pull you up a
chair

And tell me of the problem that has brought you to despair."

The Cowboy said, "My horse stepped in a hole and took a
fall,

It broke his leg and so I had to shoot him. After all,
You can't just let them suffer, but it fills me with remorse
To take his life that way; but, Preacher, now I need a
horse."

The Preacher said, "You're lucky, 'cause I've got just what
you need.

I trained a horse for my own use, but I'll sell ^{to} you that
steed.

He's sound as any dollar, and he's up to any task,

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You'll find him plenty willing, and he'll give you all you ask.

"Come out and take a look at him and see if you agree
He'll do for what you have in mind. He's good, I
guarantee."

The chance to get a horse like that sure boosted his morale,
So he got up with the Preacher and went to the corral.

That Preacher knew his horses, that was very plain to see;
So they both struck ^{an} bargain for a reasonable fee.
The Preacher said, "You've bought the best and that I'll
verify.

But let me tell you one more thing before you say good-bye.

"I trained that horse to use myself and taught him by the
Book.

For you to use him here's the rules you mustn't overlook.
He works by voice command alone; your guard you mustn't
drop,

'Cause Giddap doesn't make him go, and Whoa don't make him
stop.

"I trained him with the words I use in sermons that I
preach,

So you just need to learn these words and proper use of
each.

To make him go, say 'Praise the Lord.' He'll move right
out, and then,

Just when you want to make him stop you simply say, 'Amen.'

"With just a bit of practice you can learn that in no time.
These words will make him hit a run, or stop him on a dime."
So this Cowpuncher saddled up and then he climbed aboard,
And making this small clicking sound said, "ck, ck, Praise
the Lord!"

The horse stepped out and in a canter headed down the lane.
He said, "Amen," and then the horse came to a stop again.
Why this would be more simply than he ever dared to hope,
And with that knowledge, shouting "Praise the Lord," he hit
a lope.

With fluid motion horse and rider seemed to be as one--
The distance simply fell away. That horse could truly run.
The Cowpoke doesn't seem to know how far he'd really gone
Until amazed he saw the cleft that he had come upon.

He knew it was the river with a bluff on either side,
And knew if he went over he had taken his last ride.

"Whoa, horse!" he shouted and pulled back with all his
might,

But that horse didn't break his stride or slow his headlong
flight.

Now what was it the Preacher said that ^{he} would have to say
To make that horse come to a stop, now did he say to pray?
That's not quite it. Oh, now I know. "AMEN," he fairly

(Humorous Cowboy Poetry: A Knee-Slappin' Gathering edited by staff members) Salt Lake City, Utah: Gibbs Smith. Copyright - Gibbs Smith, 1995. 176 pp.

shrieked
And brought him to a sliding stop--but he could hardly speak.

His heart was right up in his throat and pounding like a drum,
And he could barely catch his breath, the scare left him so numb.
The bluff edge there was right back underneath the horse's chin.
How lucky he remembered that he had to say "Amen."

He stood up in his stirrups there and looked down at the bluff.
There wasn't room for one more step. Man, that was close enough!
He'd almost met his maker and collected his reward.
He sunk back in the saddle as he sighed, "Oh, Praise the Lord!"
pp. 87-88
(41-65)

Aging

The Lost Cow
Phil Kennington

Now Jed had lost his hearing
And he'd also lost his cow,
And he'd hunted hill and hollow,
But he'd lost his trail somehow.

So Jed, he asked the preacher
To recruit some help at church.
The preacher said he'd ask for men
To help him with his search.

So Sunday from the pulpit
Came the call for volunteers.
Jed told 'em that his cow was black
With white around both ears.

Said, "Ya could spot her easy
'Cause both her horns turned up.
She'll answer when she hears her name--
She's called ole 'Buttercup'."

Then Jed described her, horn to tail,
His picture left no doubt,
And they organized a big cow hunt
To start when church was out.

The preacher had one more concern
Before his Sunday text,
And he checked his church agenda
To determine what was next.

He announced a brand new member,
Widder Jones was asked to stand.
Then the congregation offered

- v.39 Jesus is saying, remove the stone. Martha, the sister of the one who had died is saying to him, "Lord, by this time the smell must be offensive, for it is four days."
- v.40 Jesus is saying to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God? Then they removed the stone."
- v.41 And Jesus lifted up His eyes above and said Father, "I thank you because you heard me"
- v.42 Now I know that you are always hearing me but on account of the crowd which is standing around, I spoke, in order that they might believe that you sent me.
- v.43 And having said these things He shouted with a great voice, "Lazurus come out!"
- v.44 The one who had died came out his feet and hands bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus is saying to them unloose him and permit him to depart.

John 11:17-44

EXPOSITION

In approaching this passage I would like to divide it into four parts
 ① First of all, the setting in verses 17-19, and the ② secondly Jesus with Martha verses 20-28, and the ③ Jesus with Mary verses 29-37, and then ④ finally Jesus with Lazurus verses 38-44.

We will note together that the Lord Jesus receives a request from Mary and Martha, these two sisters in verse 3. "Therefore his sisters sent unto him saying, "Lord behold he whom you love is sick." And then the Lord sends a message to the sisters saying, "The sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Could they trust Him with all the evidence to the contrary?

Verse Seventeen: "Then Jesus having come found that he had been already four days in the tomb."

*Interview = Lord, you are late!!
 Lord, Nothing Good can come out of this!!*

When the Lord Jesus arrives at the hometown of Lazurus, Mary, and Martha, we find that Lazurus has already been dead for four days. Late = Mary, Martha, Lazurus. Overtime = Lord. *wanted just the right length of time*

In the land of Palestine because of the terrible heat, during these days it was the custom of the Jews to bury their dead as quickly as possible. They also had a tradition that persons spirit remained by the tomb until the fourth day, and on the fourth day the countenance changed and the spirit departed then the person was definitely dead after the fourth day.

Verse Eighteen: "Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles."

This little city that Mary and Martha and Lazurus lived in was just a couple of miles from the great religious center of that day--the city of Jerusalem. Across the Kidron Valley on the hillside of the Mount of Olives.

Its close proximity to the city of Jerusalem made it possible for many people to come to Bethany in just a short period of time. The Lord Jesus often retired to the home of Mary and Martha and Lazurus to get away from the crowds.

Verse Nineteen: "Now many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary in order that they might comfort them concerning their brother."

Many of the Jews had made the 30-40 minute walk to the village of Bethany to comfort Martha and Mary in the loss of their brother.

Popular Family - well-liked - Many had sat at man's table

- ① The wedding
 - ② Nicodemus
 - ③ woman at well
 - ④ spoo
 - ⑤ woman in adultery
 - ⑥ friends
- I.**
The Setting 17-19
 Faith or Unbelief
 Carest thou not that we perish...
 Rom. 4:20-21
 FAITH is when "IF's" become "When's"

With this setting before us, I would like very much for us to consider the Saviour creatively dealing with three different people in this passage who have very different needs. It is my prayer that as we consider this together we might recognize the fact that no matter what our needs might be, the Saviour is cognizant of these needs and is fully prepared to meet the needs of our hearts.

Martha
Mary
hazarus

We are now going to consider the second portion of this passage as I have called, Jesus with Martha verses 20-28.

Verse Twenty: "Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went out to meet him, but Mary was sitting in the house."

Martha is a very interesting person in the Scriptures. We see three pictures of her in the word of God. We see her in Luke 10 as the Lord Jesus has come to visit her home in Bethany, and Mary chooses to remain inactive and to listen to the Saviour and Martha gets somewhat perturbed by this and just bursts in on the Lord and Mary and stands over him with her hands on her hips and says "Lord do you not care that my sister is leaving me alone to serve? Speak to her now so that she will take hold with me and do her part." And the Lord says to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and excited about many things."

This is the second picture that we see of her here in John 11. She is remaining true to form in that she is busily engaged about many things.

The third picture that we see of Martha is in the 12th chapter of John as you would guess, she is waiting on tables.

If Martha were here with us at this time, I'm sure she would be a real jovial light-hearted sort of a person who is always busily engaged in some project for her Lord.

Not cooking this time! everybody is bringing in food

She would probably be a little bit on the heavy side because she spent a great deal of her time cooking, and I'm confident that her cooking must have agreed with her. Her verse would have probably been, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we diet."

Erma Bombeck Notes.

She would be the type of person who would get nervous and excited if everything wasn't just right and if things didn't go the way she felt they should.

I am so tense that when I get calm I get nervous

Martha is true to character as soon as she hears that Jesus is coming she goes out to meet him. She doesn't wait for him to come to the house. The contrast, however, to this was that Mary was sitting in the house.

Verse Twenty One: "Then Martha said to Jesus: Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Martha is speaking these words somewhat upset and hurt in that she had expected Jesus to have gotten there before her brother passed away. Had not the Lord said This sickness is not unto death but for the Glory of God. Lord, you are late.

Col. 3:16
II.
Jesus w/ Martha 20-28

She and Philip could have had their own Steak & Ale or Red lobster Chain!!

God remembered Noah --- Gen. 8:
God Blessed Noah --- Gen. 9:
Gal. 4:4, 5
Habakkuk
Mark 4:

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Contentment

But many folks eat their hearts out, suffering from the contagious "If Only" disease. Its germs infect every slice of life.

If only I had more money
If only I could make better grades
If only we owned a nicer home
If only we hadn't made that bad investment
If only I hadn't come from such a bad background
if only she would have stayed married to me
If only our pastor were a stronger preacher
If only my child were able to walk
If only we could have children
If only we didn't have children
If only the business could have succeeded
If only my husband hadn't died so young
If only I would've said "No" to drugs
If only they had given me a break
If only I hadn't had that accident
If only we could get back on our feet
If only he would ask me out
If only people would accept me as I am
If only my folks hadn't divorced
If only I had more friends

The list is endless. Woven through the fabric of all those words is an attitude that comes from the simple choice to see the negative side of life, the choice to be unhappy about almost everything that happens. Taken far enough, it leads to the dead-end street of self-pity--one of the most distasteful and inexcusable of all attitudes.

pp. 72-73
(36-50)

Contentment

As the Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu once said:

There is no calamity greater than lavish desires.
There is no greater guilt than discontentment.
And there is no greater disaster than greed.

p. 76
(36-50)

Romans 12:20-21

"But what does all this mean about heaping burning coals on his head?"

In ancient days, homes were heated and meals were fixed on a small portable stove, somewhat like our outside barbecue grills. Frequently, a person would run low on hot coals and would need to replenish his supply. The container was commonly carried on the head. So as the individual passed beneath second-story windows, thoughtful people who had extra hot coals in their possession would reach out of the window and place them in the container atop his head. Thanks to the thoughtful generosity of a few folks, he would arrive at the site with a pile of burning coals on his head and a ready-made fire for cooking and keeping warm.

Martha did know this that death could not abide in the presence of the Lord Jesus. The thing that Martha did not know was that Jesus had promised to be with us for he says, "Lo, I am with you always." The testimony of the Psalmist, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me." And Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Martha needed to learn the lesson that Jesus does not have to be there in physical form to have his presence be with us.

Verse Twenty Two: "And now I am knowing that whatever you may ask God, God will give it to you."

Martha is confident that the Lord Jesus has a hotline to heaven and that as a result of his fellowship and communion with the Father, the request that he might make will certainly be granted.

Verse Twenty Three: "Jesus is saying to her, "Your brother will arise.""

Here is a simple statement of what God is going to do, and yet we will note that Martha applies this to some future time in verse 24.

Verse Twenty Four: "Martha is saying to him, I am knowing that he will arise in the resurrection on the last day."

She knows that the Lord will raise Lazarus in the last day, but that is not very much comfort for the present.

Martha cannot see that Jesus Christ could be speaking of the present situation.

Relevant to the present situation!

Philip
Andrew

Martha can only see him in terms of the future. Her dim eyes and trembling hands could not grasp the grand truth that he who stood before her had the keys of life and death and that in her master dwelled all the fullness of the God head bodily.

"I am not afraid of tomorrow for I have seen yesterday and I love today!"

Verse Twenty Five: "Jesus said to her, "I myself am the resurrection and the life, the one who is believing in me, even if he die, shall live.""

Here Jesus points out the fact that he is two things. First of all, he is the resurrection and secondly, he is the life.

He is not only the life giver, but he is also the life which he gives. Gal. 2:20

Verse Twenty Six: "And everyone who is living and believing in me shall positively never die. (Shall by no means die into the ages) Are you believing this?"

What a glorious declaration this is from the lips of the Saviour that everyone who is living and believing in the Lord Jesus shall positively never die.

You will note that he concludes this verse with a piercing question to Martha: Are you believing this? It is one thing to know something and another to believe it. It is also ~~one~~ something to believe something and then to really be able to trust in a difficult circumstance.

Jesus
Wants to
do for us NOW
Heb 13:8

Verse Twenty Seven: "She is saying to Him, Yes, Lord, I have believed (and still do) that you are the Christ the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

This is Martha's statement of faith. She knew who he was but she didn't know what he could do.

Verse Twenty Eight: "And having said this she went off and secretly called Mary, her sister saying, "The teacher is here and is calling for you."

I believe that Martha because she was so active made a mistake here in that she left the presence of the Lord without giving him further opportunity to speak to strengthen her faith.

* * *

How often times we read the word of God and then hastily pray and rush out of his presence before the Lord has opportunity to speak with us.

III.

The passage now turns from Martha to Mary in verses 29-37.

Verse Twenty Nine: "Now as soon as she heard, she arises at once and went to Him."

What a completely different personality Mary is from Martha.

word
Weeping
Worshipping

Whenever we see Mary in the Scriptures, we see her at the feet of the Lord Jesus. We note in Luke 10 that she is at the feet of the Lord Jesus listening to his word, and here in this chapter, she is at his feet weeping, and in John 12 she is at the feet of the Lord Jesus worshipping.

What a wonderful lesson in obedience we see in this 29th verse. "As soon as she hears, she arises and goes to him."

Verse Thirty: "Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha met Him."

Jesus is evidently still talking with his disciples and some of the Jews who had met him on the outskirts of Bethany when Mary comes to him.

Verse Thirty One: "Therefore the Jews, those who were with her in the house and who were comforting her, having seen Mary that she had arisen quickly and gone out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb in order that she might weep there."

The pain of bereavement was heavy for Mary. She was probably exhausted from the hours of weeping in the silence of her residence.

The Jews who had come from Jerusalem to comfort Mary and Martha saw Mary get up and leave quickly and they thought that she was going out to the tomb of her brother so that she might continue weeping there.

Verse Thirty Two: "Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was, having seen Him, fell at His feet, saying to Him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'"

"Lord, you are late."

Same Song Second Verse a little bit louder. . . .

IF ONLY. . .

Collapses At His Feet! Tried to be Strong!
6 1/2 OF the longest days OF her life!

Mary comes to Jesus and when she sees him, she falls at his feet and through eyes filled with tears she simply makes the only statement she ever makes in the Scriptures. "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

We can note together that she says the very same thing that Martha said. I am sure that Martha and Mary many times before the Lord Jesus came and right after the death of their brother had made this statement to one another. "If only the Lord could have been here, then Lazarus would not have died."

After all didn't the Lord Jesus say that "this sickness was not to be unto death, but for the Glory of God," that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

What a painful thing this must have been for them to see their brother's life slowly ebbing away and endeavoring to keep faith in the words of the Lord Jesus that this sickness was not going to be unto death and then to see death actually come and then to question and to wonder why the Lord Jesus had led them astray.

How limited is our perspective when it comes to life and how easy it is to become critical and judgmental of God because of an isolated incident in our experience.

P.C.

Ps. 50:15 "Call upon me in the day of trouble & will deliver thee & Thou shalt glorify me"

Isaiah 55:8-11, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and Making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be wick goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

L.B. "I want you to trust me in your time of trouble so I can rescue you & you can give me glory & tribute"

You call that A rescue! I lost my job! 22 years later wow! what A Miracle! what A life! what A plan!

Verse Thirty Three: "Then Jesus, when he saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping was deeply moved in His spirit and troubled himself."

Here the Lord Jesus identifies with Mary in her sorrow. We will note how differently the Saviour deals with Mary as from how he dealt with Martha.

Mary was in desperate need of sympathy and comfort and the Saviour bears his heart of love to reveal to us the fact that we have a Saviour who cares.

I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you."

The hymnwriter expressed it. "Does Jesus care when I have said good-bye to the dearest on earth to me. And my said heart aches until it nearly breaks, is it ought to him, does he see. Oh yes he cares I know he cares his heart is touched with my grief. And the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Saviour cares."

The Lord Jesus does not say very much here, his presence is enough. He has promised us his presence in Life's difficult situations.

A Man has No until he Knows All the Facts...

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Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not for I am with thee, be not dismayed. For I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee, yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

So deeply did Jesus enter into the wounded hearts and the sorrows of people that his heart wrung with anguish and every pang that rends the heart the Man of Sorrows had a part.

What a blessing this is to know that in the hour of grief or in the hour of need the Saviour reveals himself as one who cares.

II Corinthians 1:3,4 "Blessed be God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The father of mercies and the God of all comfort who comforteth us in all of our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Verse Thirty Four: "And he said, "Where have you laid Him?" They are saying to Him, "Lord come and see."

Here the Saviour raises the question as to the location of the tomb, and then the answer "Lord come and see."

Verse Thirty Five: "Jesus wept"

Here we find the Lord Jesus outwardly identifying with Mary in her grief. You will note that with Mary it is just his presence and than manifests the fact that he cares. Now the weeping confirms the inner thoughts of his heart.

In verse 33 we get the inward reaction of Jesus as he is deeply moved in his spirit and troubled within himself and now in verse 35 we get the outward manifestation of his grief by the tears that are in his eyes.

* * * With tears in His eyes and anguish in his heart, the Lord Jesus identifies with Mary in her deepest need.

He not only feels for us in our time of grief, but he also feels with us.

Make no mistake these are genuine tears of anguish and bereavement even as the tears which he shed over the waywardness of the city of Jerusalem were genuine. *O! Jerusalem! - - Garden of Gethsemane, -*

Verse Thirty Six: "Then the Jews were saying, Behold, how he was loving him."

Immediately the Jews recognized the fact that in his tears he was manifesting the fact he had a love for Lazarus.

Verse Thirty Seven: "But certain ones of them said, 'Was not this man able, who opened the eyes of the blind, to have caused that even this one should not die?'" *it is Not A Question OF Ability but Timing . . . Ecc.3:11*

Here the Jews raised the question as to the ability of Jesus who had opened the eyes of the man who had been born blind in John 9 as to his ability to have caused Lazarus not to have experienced death.

It is interesting to note that their question reveals the fact that obviously now it is too late since death has already taken its victim and that the only hope for Lazarus would have been that Jesus could have healed him before he died.

It is most interesting that the Lord Jesus makes no defense here but quietly goes on preparing for action.

It is great comfort to know that the Lord Jesus can meet all of life's situations, that he's gone the way before us and we are following in his steps.

Isaiah 43:2 "When thou passes through the waters I will be with thee and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest through the fire, thou shall not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

III. Jesus with Lazarus 11:38-44

Verse Thirty Eight: "Then Jesus again moved deeply in Himself is coming to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying upon it."

John describes for us the tomb as being a typical tomb of those days as a cave which had a large stone lying upon it which was to keep the wild animals out.

Here John once again expresses the inner grief and pain of this hour of bereavement.

* * *
The Lord does more than just give answers and explanations for why things happen in our lives. He stands with us and identifies with us in our grief and gives us his presence personally.

Verse Thirty Nine: "Jesus is saying, remove the stone. Martha, the sister of the one who had died is saying to him, "Lord, by this time the smell must be offensive, for it is four days."

You will note the command of the Saviour to remove the stone and then Martha, the sister of Lazarus, becomes somewhat disturbed and says, "Lord by this time the smell must be offensive for it is four days."

She is just simply saying, "Are you sure you know what you are doing in asking that the stone be removed?"

Martha does not yet see what her Saviour is doing and for some of us it takes us a long time to catch on. Life and the way the Lord deals with us it sometimes seems like a jumble picture puzzle and how exciting and thrilling it is to see some of the pieces began to fall into place.

Verse Forty: "Jesus is saying to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?" Then they removed the stone."

Here Martha experiences a stern rebuke from the Lord and a reminder once again of the fact in raising the question "Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God." ?

Oh Martha, if you could only learn now the lesson that there is a great gap between knowing something and really believing it, or in believing something and really implementing that belief in a time of crisis.

Trust Me !! Triumph is on the way !

Patience, Martha, you'll see the glory of God revealed in this difficult situation. Don't miss it by trying to interfere in the purpose of God.

How differently the Lord does things from what we think sometimes and even over our own protest.

Verse Forty One: "And Jesus lifted up His eyes above and said Father, I thank you because you heard me."

Here the Lord Jesus before he moved he moves into action, prays.

One is reminded of Elijah in I Kings 18:37 "Here me oh Lord, hear me that this people might know that you are the Lord God and that thou hast turned their hearts back again, and the fire of Jehovah fell."

John Calvin says, "Jesus advances to the tomb of the champion who prepares for conflict. With tears in his eyes, and anguish in his heart he moved to the battle with death."

How sensitive the ears of the Father are to the cries of his children, when we are walking in communion and fellowship with him.

Verse Forty Two: "Now I know that you are always hearing me but on account of the crowd which is standing around, I spoke in order that they might believe that you sent me."

Quite a crowd of Jews has come with Mary and Martha, also the disciples so the Lord lifts his eyes to heaven to pray.

His purpose in praying is stated in this verse, "in order that they might believe that you sent me." Notice once again the Lord Jesus emphasis upon believing. He reveals himself to Martha as the resurrection and the life so that her faith might be strengthened and become relevant to the present situation. Here he prays in order that those who are on lookers might truly believing in him as the Son of God, and this too underscores John's purpose in writing the book that everyone might know that he is God come in human flesh.

Verse Forty Three: "And having said these things he shouted with a great voice, "Lazurus come out!"

You will note that once again this is a command. After he has spoken to the father, he shouts with a great voice to the dead, "Lazurus, come out!"

One is reminded of I Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout. The voice of the archangel with a triumph of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Oh the tremendous power of these words. This is the same voice who in the beginning of time said, "Let there be light." I'm sure the disciples would say even as they said in that storm-tossed boat, who is this that even the wind and the waves obey his voice. Who is this that even the dead will hear and obey as he speaks.

Peace
Be still

Be it known here and now that God is willing to do for us all that his grace and power will allow him to do.

He just commands Lazarus to come out because if he had said, "Come out," he would have accomplished the resurrection and would have emptied the whole graveyard before these witnesses.

Verse Forty Four: "The one who had died came out his feet and hands bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus is saying to them unloose him and permit him to depart."

What a graphic picture of the Son of God, the one who has power over life and death.

Martha's greatest need was to trust in her belief and Mary's need was for love and sympathy and understanding, and the need of Lazarus was for life and liberty. We see the Lord Jesus meeting each of these needs in this particular picture.

Here is a living man in the clothes of the dead, and so the Lord Jesus pronounces another command, "Unloose him, and permit him to depart."

Hebrews 12:1,2 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despising the shame, and then sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:11 Neither do I condemn you -- Go your way -- No longer be sinning. From this passage we learn that the Lord Jesus meets us where we are, and meets all of our needs. He knows us, he understands us, he cares and he is able to provide for us the answer to life.

CONCLUSION:

For Martha it was the ability to take her faith and believe and to put it into action in the midst of a crisis to learn to really trust God. Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief. It is one thing to be apprehending and another to be appropriating. To Martha it was the question of Can I really trust God in this crisis? Does she really have the faith to Let Go and Let God at this particular time.

Belief applied to the present situation is trust in God's ability to handle the circumstances.

Martha, can you trust me? I am capable of handling this situation.

For Mary it was the need for love and sympathy. She learned that the Lord really cares and that his presence with her was the most important thing and that like a mother with a small babe in the next room, the Father's heart goes out in love to hear but the slightest cry or moan and his love moves into action.

Mary, I love you and this is part of the working together for God although you may not understand what I am doing at this particular time.

For Lazarus being dead the greatest thing was for him to have life. In Ephesians 2:1 we read "And you have been made alive who were dead in trespasses and sin."

Conclusion: Close

We had a funeral yesterday, and it left us all very disturbed. A neighbor died of thirst. Doesn't make any sense. He lived within yards of the oasis. Night after night he heard our songs drifting across the sand telling about the wonderful characteristics of our water. Yet he never once came here, and he died of thirst.

Lazarus, I'll meet your needs and it will be a witness to the world of what I can do.

Many of you listening to my voice do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. The thrilling thing today is to tell you that in Jesus Christ there is life. In John 1:4 we read "That in Him was life and the life was the light of men." Romans 5:12 we read "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men for that all had sinned." And in John 10:10 we read, "He is come that is Jesus Christ that we might have life and might have it more abundantly."

II Corinthians 6:2 "Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of Salvation."

Proverbs 27:1 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

I think the great challenge of this particular passage is that the Lord is waiting to meet your needs whether your need is represented in the needs that Martha presents, or whether your needs are represented in those of Mary, or perhaps if your need is represented in the need for life and liberty. That, too, can be realized in a relationship to Jesus Christ.

3 Guys Met Christ

- ① Houston
- ② Waco
- ③ Dallas

Rooster Crowing At 10:30
A.M. At Don Byers Grave
Side...
New day!

Lessons From the passage:

- #1 Can You Trust God with Your present Circumstances ?
- #2 Jesus really does care About You + what is happening in your life.
- #3 The Lord is saying I love You And All of this is part of My plan For Good..
- #4. The lord is waiting to Meet Your Needs.
- #5 it is Never a Question of Ability but timing.
- #6 Can You trust Him ~~and~~ His promises when All the evidence is Contrary?
- #7 we must learn Never to be critical of God with our limited perspective...
- #8 it is one thing to apprehend & Another to appropriate...

Close!!

④ Post thou ask how I abide?
How this life I can maintain?
I am bound to the vine by life's strong
And I only need remain **band**

This only a little branch

① A thing so fragile & weak
But that little branch hath a message true
to thee could it only speak

I'm only a little branch

② I live by a life not mine
For the sap that flows through my tendrils small
Is the life-blood of the vine.

no power indeed have I

③ the fruit of myself to bear
But since I'm part of the living vine
It's fruitfulness I share.