

BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 16

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

John 11 v 1 - 7; 17 - 46

The Death of Lazarus

1 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 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days. 7 Then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

Jesus Comforts the Sisters

17 On His arrival Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 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. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world."

28 And 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. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come along with her

also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and trouble. 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!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

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

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

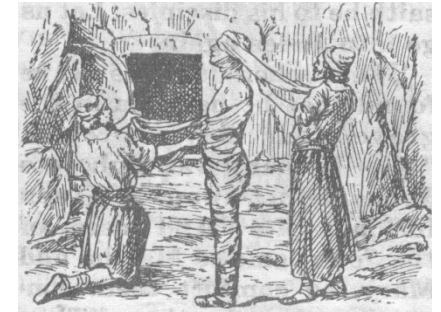
40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

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."



The Plot To Kill Jesus

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

Something to Think About

Isn't it nice to know that Jesus loved His friends so much? You are His friend, too, if you do whatever He says (John 15 v 14). In this story, Jesus' friends were facing a very sad situation. Brother Lazarus had died. It seemed at first that Jesus didn't care. Do you ever feel that God does not care about a hard situation you are facing? But God is never asleep. He always has a plan. We must always keep trusting Him to work things out that will bring the most glory to God.

God has a plan for you, too. He wants to make you like His Son, Jesus. **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son that he**

might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8 v 28+29) So this is why we have to go through hard times. **“These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1 Peter 1 v 7)**

Jesus wanted to teach Mary and Martha and us, too, that believing in Him means we will never die. When those who believe in Jesus die, they are **“away from the body”** and **“at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5 v 8)**

Jesus proved also that He can bring dead *bodies* back to life by just calling their name. [Lazarus heard the voice of Jesus calling him and he lived.] When Jesus comes back to this earth again, **“...the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” (John 5 v 25).**

Even now, Jesus knocks on the doors of hearts. **“... If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with Me.” (Revelation 3 v 20)** Those who hear His voice and open the door will become a new creation. **“... God ... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ...” (Ephesians 2 v 5)** **“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.” (Romans 6 v 11 - 13)**

This Miracle Required Obedience

Do you face a hopeless situation that needs a miracle? Jesus may allow many hard things to come in your life “for the glory of God.” But never forget that He loves you as He did Martha and Mary. He may be planning a miracle you don’t expect. But notice the obedience that was necessary for this miracle of new life. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Even though they thought it was foolish, they obeyed. Then after Lazarus came forth, Jesus said, “Loose him and let him go.”

To see the glory of God’s power, we, too, must be obedient in even small things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do. If we need to ask someone’s forgiveness when we are only 2% wrong, we must do it. It may be the stone that needs to be rolled away so Jesus can work a miracle in the other person’s heart. And when Jesus *does* work a miracle, let us lovingly help to loose others from the things that would hinder them from full freedom. Wasn’t it wonderful that Jesus allowed His friends to help

