


11/12/26

*John 11:17-44*
*Today we finish the story of a resurrection of physical life. That resurrection would have no eternal meaning if we didn't have the hope of a spiritual resurrection through Jesus.*

*At this point, Jesus has just told the disciples He's going to go "wake Lazarus up". Before I even go on, I'm hit with the fact that Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. He wasn't worried. He didn't have to weigh out all His options. He was fully confident that He would raise Lazarus from the dead, and no attempt on His own life would be successful… until the appointed time that He chose. This is why I can come to a place where I can be fully content in knowing that He's got everything in His hands, and His plans are always FOR me, not against me… even when things don't make sense to my finite mind.*

*So… Jesus arrived in Bethany. Martha heard He had arrived and she ran out to see Him. She said, "Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died." A little bit of accusation in that. "Why didn't You come?" What must she have thought when the people she sent to tell Jesus about her brother's illness came back without Him? Was she shocked? Did she think, "But I thought He loved us"?*

*She didn't want Jesus to think she had completely lost faith in who He was. She said, "But even now… in spite of the fact that You didn't come… I know that whatever You ask from God, He will give it to You." I know from her response when Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again", that she wasn't asking Jesus to raise her brother. That's why I think she was trying to say, "I know You didn't come, but I still believe in who You are."*

*Martha said to Jesus, "Well, yes, I know my brother will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." She understood that there will be a resurrection, like what's talked about in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. But she did not understand what Jesus was saying.*

*Then He said, "I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in ME, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Jesus was saying… "Life is found in ME." The way to life is faith in Jesus. Death has lost its sting in Jesus.*

*Martha said, "Yes, Lord. I believe that You're the Messiah." Believing in Jesus changes everything. He takes us from death to life, from impurity to holiness, from hopelessness to hope. Even as Martha grieved for her brother, not knowing what Jesus was about to do, she still grieved with hope because she believed in Jesus.*

*Martha sent for Mary and said, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." Mary went to Jesus and fell at His feet. She said the same words as her sister, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus saw her pain and the pain of those weeping with her, and He was "deeply moved in His Spirit and greatly troubled." Let me never think that Jesus doesn't care about my sadness. Even in this moment, when He KNEW that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, He didn't scold or say, "You just need to have faith". He was deeply compassionate. He who says, "Weep with those who weep" did exactly that. They took Him to the tomb and He wept… not just man tears, but deeply sorrowful tears. Knowing the outcome did not make Him apathetic to their pain.*

*Some people saw His tears and said, "See how He loved Him!" Others kind of accused Him and said, "Couldn't He have kept him from dying?" Jesus was not affected by accusation. He has never turned anyone away who was willing to come to Him, even when we didn't understand His plan and said, "Why, God?" He wept. Even knowing what He was going to do, He loved them and He wept.*

*He wept, and then He raised Lazarus from the dead. Martha tried to stop Him when He told them to take away the stone. "The smell! He's been gone four days!!!" He said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" And then He spoke to His Father and He said, "Lazarus, come out!" And… Lazarus came out.*

*I want to focus on 3 statements from this passage.*

1. *"The Teacher is calling for you." The fact is, the Teacher is always calling for me. The question is, "Will I come?" Do I trust Him?*
2. *"If You had been here…" I don't ever have to wonder if the Lord is here. He IS. And if I don't understand my circumstances, I can trust that I'm probably in the middle of the story, and He who has compassion on me knows the end of the story and will help me to get there.*
3. *"If you believe, you WILL see the glory of God." No matter what my circumstances are, what loss I'm facing, I can trust that in the end, I will see the glory of God… and it will be for my good… because He loves me.*

*Lord, I do believe. Please help me in my unbelief. I praise You for patience, Your power, Your compassion, Your wisdom, and Your love.*