

Get Rid of the GRAVE Clothes ~ John 11:1-48

➔ Scripture Reading John 11:21-27

INTRODUCTION ➔ Picture drawing

He has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace. Joni

Lazarus is Very SICK ~ John 11:1-16

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.

REQUEST from Mary and Martha ABegg

- 1- Intimacy of it
- 2- Humility
- 3- Dependency

⁷ Then HE said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

Psalm 139:16 (NLT) You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

There is enough time to Respond to the Lord Jesus Christ- His Love- His Mercy- His Grace

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Lazarus is DEAD ~ John 11:17-37

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."

Martha Believes that Jesus is...

- the Christ
- the Son of God
- the One who was to Come

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 troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³³ ...a deep anger welled up within Him, and He was deeply troubled. (NLT)

Reasons for the ANGER of Jesus DACarson

- sin, sickness, and death
- unbelief of those grieving

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?"

Lazarus LIVES Again ~ John 11:38-48

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 odor, 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?"

³⁸ Jesus was still angry as He arrived at the tomb... (NLT)

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. 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. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸ If we let Him go on like this, everyone will BELIEVE in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away BOTH our PLACE and our nation."

TAKE AWAY ??

1. God Shows His Love in many DIFFERENT Ways

Romans 8:34-36, 38 (JBP) Can ANYTHING separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? ...NO, IN all these things we win an overwhelming victory through Him who has proved His love for us. ³⁸ I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God's whole world has any power TO SEPARATE us from the LOVE of God IN Jesus Christ our Lord!

They say it only takes a little faith - To move a mountain
Well good thing - A little faith is all I have, right now
But God, when You choose - To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing - It is well with my soul

I know You're able and I know You can - Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't - My HOPE is YOU alone
I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt - Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't - My HOPE is YOU alone

2. In our Times of Deepest Loss we have Someone to Whom We can Turn

Psalm 46:1-3 (NLT) God is our REFUGE and STRENGTH, always READY TO HELP in times of trouble. ² So we will NOT Fear, even if earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. ³ Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

3. Take OFF the GRAVE Clothes

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."

John 5:24 (NIV) I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will NOT be condemned; he has crossed over from death to LIFE.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (JBP) We have set our faces AGAINST all shameful secret practices...

Romans 6:13 (NIV) 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.

Is there a heart o'erbound by sorrow? - Is there a life weighed down by care?
Come to the cross, each burden bearing; - All your anxiety - leave it there.

All your anxiety, all your care, - Bring to the mercy seat, leave it there,
Never a burden He cannot bear, - Never a friend like Jesus!

No other friend so swift to help you, - No other friend so quick to hear,
No other place to leave your burden, - No other one to hear your prayer.