

## TAKE OFF THE GRAVE CLOTHES ~ JOHN 11:1-44

→ Scripture Romans 8:31-38

### THIS SICKNESS WILL NOT END IN DEATH ~ 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.

[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."

### I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE ~ John 11:17-27

[17] On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ... [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." ...[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

### JESUS CRIED ~ John 11:28-37

...[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. [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?"

#### Reasons for the Outrage of Jesus (D.A. Carson)

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

### LAZARUS COME OUT! ~ John 11:38-44

[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?" [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."

## TAKE AWAY ??

### 1- God Shows His Love In Many 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!

→ We Must be willing to TRUST God no matter how He shows His Love

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

**Psalms 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 (Leave them Off)

**John 5:24** "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** 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.