

# Patience with the Senders

John 11:17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had *lain in the grave four days already*. 18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: 19 And many of the **Jews came** to Martha and Mary, **to comfort** them concerning their brother. 20 Then **Martha**, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, **went and met him**: but **Mary sat still** in the house. 21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, **if thou hadst been here**, my brother had not died. 22 But I know, that **even now**, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee. 23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother **shall rise again**. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the **last day**. 25 Jesus said unto her, **I am** the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, **though he were dead, yet shall he live**: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me **shall never die**. Believest thou this? 27 She saith unto him, **Yea, Lord: I believe** that **thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world**. 28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary

her sister **secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.** 29 **As soon as** she heard *that*, **she arose quickly,** and came unto him. 30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him. 31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. 32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, **if thou hadst been here,** my brother had not died. 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, **he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,** 34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. 35 **Jesus wept.** 36 Then said the Jews, **Behold how he loved him!** 37 And some of them said, **Could not this man,** which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? 38 Jesus therefore again **groaning in himself** cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. 39 Jesus said, Take ye away the

stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time **he stinketh**: for he hath been **dead four days**. 40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

1. Bad things happen to people that Jesus loves and that love Jesus
  - a. Jesus loved Lazarus and they knew it 11:3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. 5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
  - b. Jesus didn't come immediately 11:6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.
  - c. He didn't answer their prayer long distance which was fully in His power
  - d. He could have stopped the problem but had other plans
2. People deal with their doubts and fears in different ways
  - a. Martha goes looking for Jesus 20 Then **Martha**, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, **went and met him**: but **Mary sat still** in the house.

- b. Mary sits and waits 20 Then **Martha**, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, **went and met him**: but **Mary sat still** in the house.
- c. Both basically accuse him of not helping 21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, **if thou hadst been here**, my brother had not died. 32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, **if thou hadst been here**, my brother had not died.
- d. The Jews question His love and loyalty 37 And some of them said, **Could not this man**, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?
- e. Martha and Mary do not distrust but neither do they believe with full confidence. They are still worried and not trusting His provision. They are asking the questions How? Why? What if? These questions cause them to miss the full blessing of what is happening!

- 3. We often want to accuse Jesus instead of trusting Him
  - a. If you had been here he would not have died

b. You could do something about it right now if you wanted to **22 But I know, that even now,** whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.

c. I don't want help in the future but right now

d. I am not sure you fully understand this situation or can really help

4. Jesus' promise to them! **23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

a. There is a resurrection and it will happen

b. I am the resurrection. Believers may die physically but they will never die spiritually

c. Mary responded that she knew all the Bible facts but she doesn't really believe that Jesus is going to do something now **24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.**

d. She believes but just not that anything is for her right now **27** She saith unto him, **Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.**

e. Do you realize the great promise that God has given us. He has overcome death forever!

5. Notice Jesus reaction to all that is happening

a. Jesus weeps showing His great love for Lazarus and understanding of us as humans **35** **Jesus wept.** **36**

**Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!**

b. Most of all it seems that Jesus was broken by their lack of faith. They know Him better than anyone and yet they do not believe Him. **32** **Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.** **33** **When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was**

**troubled,** 34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. 35 **Jesus wept.**

- i. Notice He groans in the spirit and is troubled
  - ii. They know Jesus and love Him.
  - iii. They believe Him but then basically attack Him
  - iv. Isn't that the attitude we tend to take when things are not going our way. Why, Lord? What are you doing? Why don't you love me?
- c. After all that He has shown them they still do not believe and when they do they want to accuse Him of not caring, not having good motives, not saving His friend 37 And some of them said, **Could not this man,** which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? 38 Jesus therefore again **groaning in himself** cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.
- i. He knows who He is.
  - ii. He knows what He can do
  - iii. Yet after all of this no one believes Him
- d. Even when Jesus is going to do something they act like He is crazy 39 **Jesus said, Take ye away the stone.**

Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time **he stinketh**: for he hath been **dead four days**. <sup>40</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

- i. Jesus do you know what you are doing
- ii. He is 4 days dead
- iii. Jesus says, didn't I tell you that you would see the glory of God

6. How will you handle what is going on in your life?
  - a. Will you believe that He is God and able and willing to do only what is best for you?
  - b. Will you be willing to humbly accept what must be His will for your life in the moment?
  - c. Will you accuse Him or accept Him and what He is doing?
  - d. Will you believe that His Word is true and can be applied to your life today?
  - e. By faith let God work in you right now where you are and in what you are doing!