

Study of the Gospel of John

The Christian in Crisis - John 11:17-27

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles[a] off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.[b] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Today's focus

1. Shortcomings of Jesus' friends
 2. How he dealt with Martha
- Jesus was late as Lazarus has been dead and in the tomb for 4 days. It was a common practice for the Jews to bury their dead the same day as they did not embalm the bodies.
 - Martha came to Him in verse 21 and said "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died". But, Jesus was in control of the situation as he state in verse 15 "and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe". As stated last week, two primary purposes for this were:
 - Jesus and the Father be glorified
 - The Disciples faith be strengthened.
 - Christians are not exempt from blaming God when things go wrong; vs 21
 - The sisters sorrow outran their faith in God
 - Christians lose sight to reality due to their sorrows
 - It's not sinful to tell God how you feel, but should always be reverent towards God because he is God.
 - Jesus does not rebuke her for her challenge, but give hope to her; vs 23

Sunday, March 15, 2015

- Martha reassures herself that Jesus will always do what is right and perfect; vs 24
- The promise that incurs a crisis; vs 23-26a
 - we have a promise of resurrection
 - the resurrection is not a doctrine but a person
- A condition that solemnizes the condition; vs 27
 - do you believe this?
- An example given; vs 27
 - Martha recognized the content to what Christ is saying
 - the ground of her faith is the authority of Christ

In conclusion, do you trust in Jesus Christ? Our answer must be biblical in that He has revealed himself through the scriptures. Hold fast to Jesus Christ and you will not sink, but He will uphold you. If your hope is not rested on Christ, your future is dismal.