

# Encounters: Two Grieving Sisters

John 11:17-44

3/19/23

## Outline

*17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles<sup>(b)</sup> 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. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

*27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

*28 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.*

*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?"*

*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 believe, you will see the glory of God?"*

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3/19/23

*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."*

## I. Comfort for Those Who Are Grieving.

*"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (vss. 21 & 32)*

### Martha

*"Lord, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died..(vs. 21)" Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (vs. 22)*

*Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." (vs. 24)*

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (vss. 25-26)*

*"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."(vs. 27)*

### Mary

## II. Give Us Hope.

*"Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb." (vs. 38)*

*"Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage, against the dying of the light."  
~Dylan Thomas*

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*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and first earth had passed away...He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:1, 4*

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Isaiah 61:1-2a  
"and the day of vengeance of our God."*

*"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief." 2 Peter 3:8-10*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him shall have eternal life." John 3:16. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"(vss. 25-26)*