Lesson 31 – John 11:17-44 Resurrection: Sorrow to Joy!
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(17) Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 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. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live --- and *everyone* who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.

(28) When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

(32) Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, He was deeply moved in His Spirit and greatly troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

(35) Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?

(38) Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

(41) So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, *but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me*." When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Think on these things:

1) Lazarus, whom Jesus had described as "sleeping" (i.e., dead, vs.11-15), had been entombed for how many days by the time Jesus and His disciples arrived (v.17). Also, how far was Bethany from Jerusalem (v.18)?

   In the tomb for _____ days. Bethany is _____ miles from Jerusalem.

2) In their sorrow after burying Lazarus, were Martha and Mary now alone at their home (v.19, 31)? Who left the house to go find Jesus when she learned He was in the area? Had Jesus entered the town (v.30)?

   In the house were: _____

   Who left to find Jesus? _____ Had Jesus entered the village yet? _____

3) In v.22, Lazarus' sister Martha expresses a deep confidence that if Jesus had only been present before Lazarus died, He could have prevented his death by healing him. Look at v.27 and write down why she had such trust in Jesus:

_____

_____

4) While Martha believed in resurrection, not all Jews believed this (see Acts 23:6-8). She acknowledged that Lazarus would rise in the future with the general resurrection of all the dead (e.g., Revelation 20:11-15). What good news did Jesus share with her in vs. 25-26 & 40?

_____

_____

5) When Mary was finally told that Jesus was nearby and wanted to see her, how did she respond (vs.31-32)? How did Jesus respond to all the weeping of Mary, Martha, and those who came to console them (vs.33-34, 38)?

_____

_____

_____

6) What skepticism did Jesus face from the crowd (v.37)? From Martha (v.39)? How did He proceed with the miracle (vs.41-42)?

Crowd? _____

Martha? _____

Jesus? _____

7) When Lazarus emerged from the tomb at Jesus' command, what did everyone see, and what did Jesus command the crowd to do (v.44)?

People saw? _____

Jesus' Command? _____

Trivia – John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible (two words): "Jesus wept."

People and situations I want to pray for this week: