



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 8, 2018

Heart to Heart...

In John 11 we have been given the encounter of Jesus, with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Jesus loved them dearly. Upon hearing of Lazarus being sick, Jesus intentionally chose to stay away two more days (John 11:6). For us it might seem strange that someone who we love is sick, and then waiting rather than contacting them to show our concern. The sisters were talking among themselves because they both had the same identical answers upon Jesus' arrival (John 11:21, 32). Both knew Jesus could have done something yesterday. What is more eye-opening is Jesus saying that He was glad He wasn't there (John 11:14-15). Why would Jesus say such? Because He knew the outcome of the whole situation from the beginning (John 11:4, 15).

Let's look at this closely and glean some spiritual insight. Lazarus wasn't the only one dead that day when Jesus arrived. Jesus pointed that Lazarus would live and plainly states that He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). Then came the question: "*Do you believe this?*" (John 11:26) That's always the question from the Lord. Jesus is looking for faith to bring life into our beings. All of those present, from the Jew's consoling the sisters to the sisters themselves were spiritually dead. Read it.

Jesus had spoken His word, pointing to the reality of things and got very little response from any of them. The sisters both dealt with the past and one dealt in the future. Neither dealt in the present. The consoling Jews were of no help as they had their own idea of what was going on. They had their own thoughts of what was happening. Jesus looks at Martha weeping, Mary weeping, the Jews weeping and it moved Him and "*Jesus wept!*" (John 11:35) But wait, why was Jesus weeping? He wasn't moved by their tears and the situation over the death of Lazarus; Jesus had already expressed the outcome that Lazarus would rise again. Jesus was troubled and moved in His spirit (John 11:33). Jesus was moved and troubled by those not hearing and believing His words. Jesus hurts when people refuse to listen and respond to His word. His words will direct us in a life-giving way and put us on a path that would benefit us. We can see His outreach that day to all those who would not believe. Then Martha adds to it all, saying it is better not to remove the rock over the tomb opening as Lazarus had been dead four days (John 11:39). The heartache Jesus must have felt when people won't accept His word. Jesus responds: "*Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?*" (John 11:40) No wonder He wept!

Are we sometimes the same? That day Lazarus was not the only one in a grave. The book of Ephesians speaks to us to get out of the graveyard and believe in the Lord Jesus. It makes me reflect and think, ‘What about me?’ Are we closer to Martha, Mary, and the others? Think about it!!!

Brent