

Grief, Love, and Power

Day 4 of looking at John 11.

Today is the day of waiting in the Passion Week. It is a day of sorrow, of confusion, of fear, of grief, and of planning on the part of a small group of women.

In our passage we will look at the time right before Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

READ vv. 28-30

Jesus Seeks The Grieving

In the midst of our sorrow and grief, Jesus seeks to comfort us.

Sometimes we make it difficult for Him to do that.

Over and over again I find in myself and others, that it is difficult to seek the Lord in grief.

It seems that my natural tendency is to try and solve the problem myself.

I have not yet trained myself to go to the Lord first.

What's awesome here is that Jesus seeks Mary in middle of her grief.

When she knows Jesus is seeking her, she gets up right away and goes to Him.

This is what I am learning.

In grief, run to Jesus. He is already there.

LESSON: Jesus comforts all who come to Him.

He won't force His comfort on you. Just like He won't force us to experience His peace.

He provides peace, He provides comfort, it is up to us to receive it.

Therefore, if we lack peace and comfort it is because we haven't come to Jesus for it.

READ vv. 31-32

Be Honest With Jesus, He Can Take It

Here is a really cool lesson.

When we run to Jesus, people follow us to Him.

Mary is taking her grief to the Lord.

These people go with her.

Even in our grief we can lead people to Jesus.

Mary arrives and says the same thing as Martha.

If you had been here, Lazarus wouldn't have died!

REMEMBER: This is a statement of both accusation and faith.

She believes in Jesus' power. But she also doesn't understand why He wasn't there.

Why weren't you here! Where were you, Jesus? We sent for you! But you got here too late.

This is how she feels!

This reminds me of the Psalms. David, over and over again, telling God exactly how He feels.

This is a good thing to do.

Be honest with Jesus. Just don't forget who He is. Don't forget the truth.

In the midst of this crisis it might feel like God isn't there. It might feel like we have called on Him and He is not answering. It's okay to feel like that.

But remember the truth. Remember His promises.

God has perfect timing. He is never too late.

God is always with us.

LESSON: We cannot cast our burdens on Jesus without telling Him what they are.

Share your heart while remembering His promises.

READ vv. 33-36

Jesus Loves Us And Grieves With Us

This is so important.

God is not some silent observer of our pain.

God grieves with us.

Why? Because He loves us.

You are never alone in your grief. Never alone in your sorrow.

Here we find Jesus weeping over His dead friend. Even though He knows He is about to raise Lazarus from the dead!

God knows what the outcome of our circumstances will be.

Yet He still grieves with us.

God loves us.

When we hurt, our Savior feels our pain!

When we weep, He weeps with us!

LESSON: Find comfort with someone who understands and grieves with you.

Take your burden of sorrow and grief to Jesus.

READ v. 37

Jesus Has A Purpose

The answer to their question is yes, Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying.

Why didn't He?

Look back at v. 15.

God has a different purpose for this situation.

Which we will learn about, tomorrow.

What I want us to remember right now is this.

There is a purpose for what you are going through.

Things don't come into our lives without reason.

There is always something to learn.

With a global pandemic going on right now, God is doing something.

He could have stopped this before it ever started.

He didn't.

Therefore, He has a greater purpose for all of this that we do not yet understand.

So, tell Him how you feel. Yet, trust the plan and purpose of God.

TAKEAWAY

Take your grief to Jesus

Tell Him how you feel

Know His love and sorrow

Trust His purpose