



February 26, 2023

*“Do You Believe Enough?”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

**Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00**

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ [www.myaletheia.com](http://www.myaletheia.com)

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

Emails: pastor@myaletheia.com, stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com

**JOHN 11:1-16 ~**

Why were the Disciples \_\_\_\_\_?

- 1) They knew that a messenger had brought word that Lazarus was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Further, that Jesus said that it would be \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Jesus calmly went about His business for \_\_\_\_\_ more days.
- 4) Then Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, “Let us go to Judea again.”

From Jesus’ words, actions, and demeanor, the disciples had no sense that anything \_\_\_\_\_ was happening. They were spring-loaded to **ASSUME** things...

In verse 11, Jesus went from plural, to singular. They will not raise Lazarus; \_\_\_\_\_ will raise Lazarus.

\_\_\_\_\_ is what activates individual Salvation, and \_\_\_\_\_ is what enables ongoing sanctification. \_\_\_\_\_ is the key to knowing and following Jesus. So yes Lord, “Increase our \_\_\_\_\_.”

Now, at what \_\_\_\_\_? What \_\_\_\_\_ are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ for faith in Him? (Isaiah 6:8).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

Lazarus died the same day that Jesus received the message. Then the \_\_\_\_ extra days at the river and \_\_\_\_ more days on the journey up the hill to Bethany.

Jesus had now given His guys a \_\_\_\_\_ that they could understand for His desire to go back to Judea.

Thomas seems a bit heroic, but what is far clearer is his lack of \_\_\_\_\_. He **ASSUMED** things.

### JOHN 11:17-22 ~

The four days thing is important. The ancients believed that after \_\_\_\_ days in hades a return was impossible.

Jesus sent word ahead that He would be arriving soon, and Martha went out alone to meet Him. Her words are seemingly full of humble, yet confident \_\_\_\_\_.

### JOHN 11:23-27 ~

Jesus plainly told Martha that Lazarus was going to rise from the dead. She **ASSUMED** that He meant at the \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_.

That seems a bit strange given what she just said.

So, what's really going on here? Well, it's basically the same thing that goes on today with followers of Jesus. We \_\_\_\_\_, but we don't really \_\_\_\_\_.

Tragedy strikes and we get scared, upset, and hurt... and then we get frustrated, impatient, and annoyed with Jesus for not being there for us when we so desperately needed Him. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ make us emotional, and our lack of \_\_\_\_\_ makes us shortsighted.

So, Jesus, once again, clarified His meaning. None of Jesus' statements were \_\_\_\_\_ to understand if a person had the right mindset.

His 5th formal "I AM" statement. Jesus pointedly asked \_\_\_\_\_, "Do you believe this?"

Her response was a magnificent confession of \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus. Like us Martha believed... And like us, she needed help with her \_\_\_\_\_... Don't **ASSUME**.

-----  
Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# lêtheia

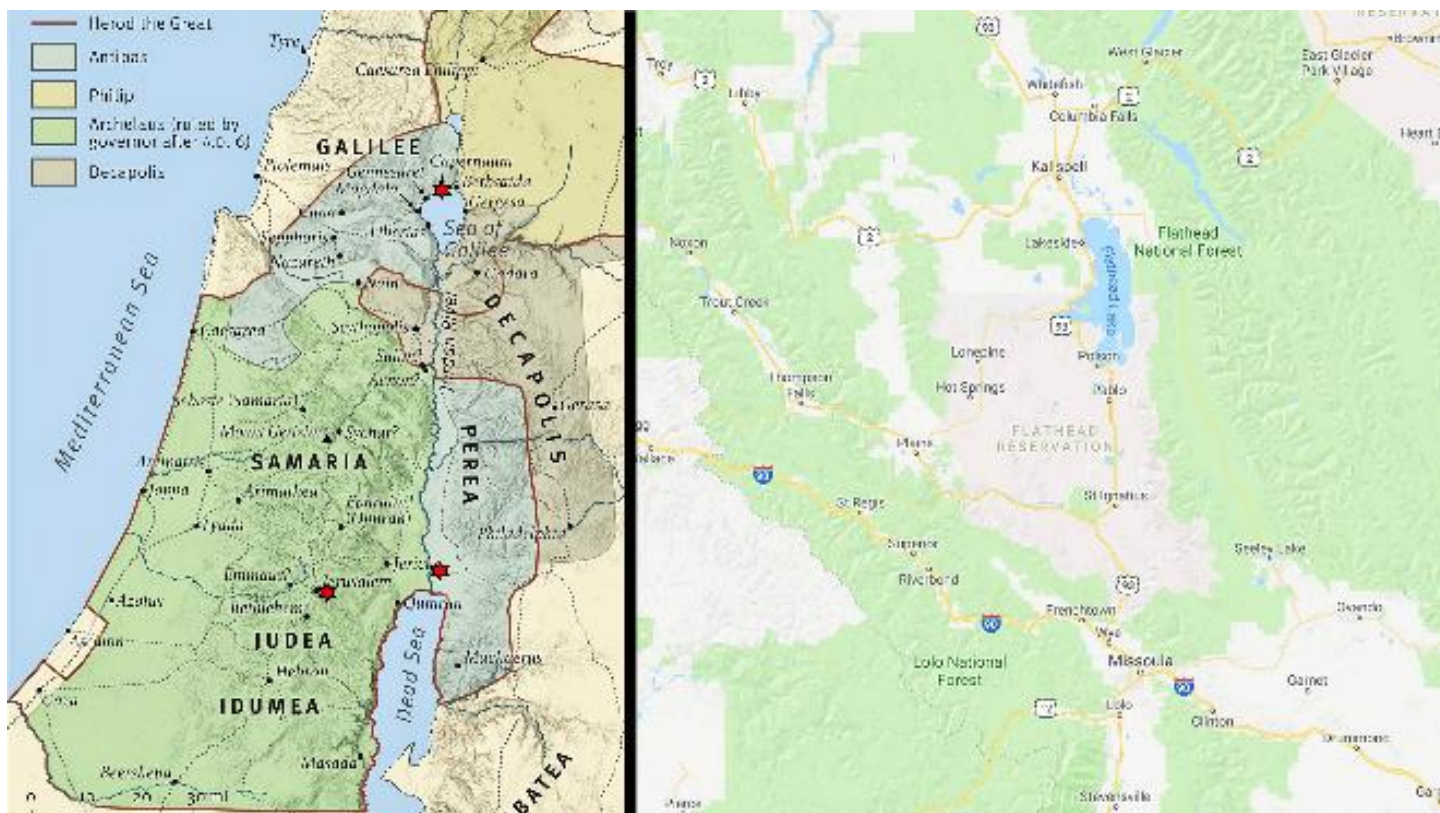
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



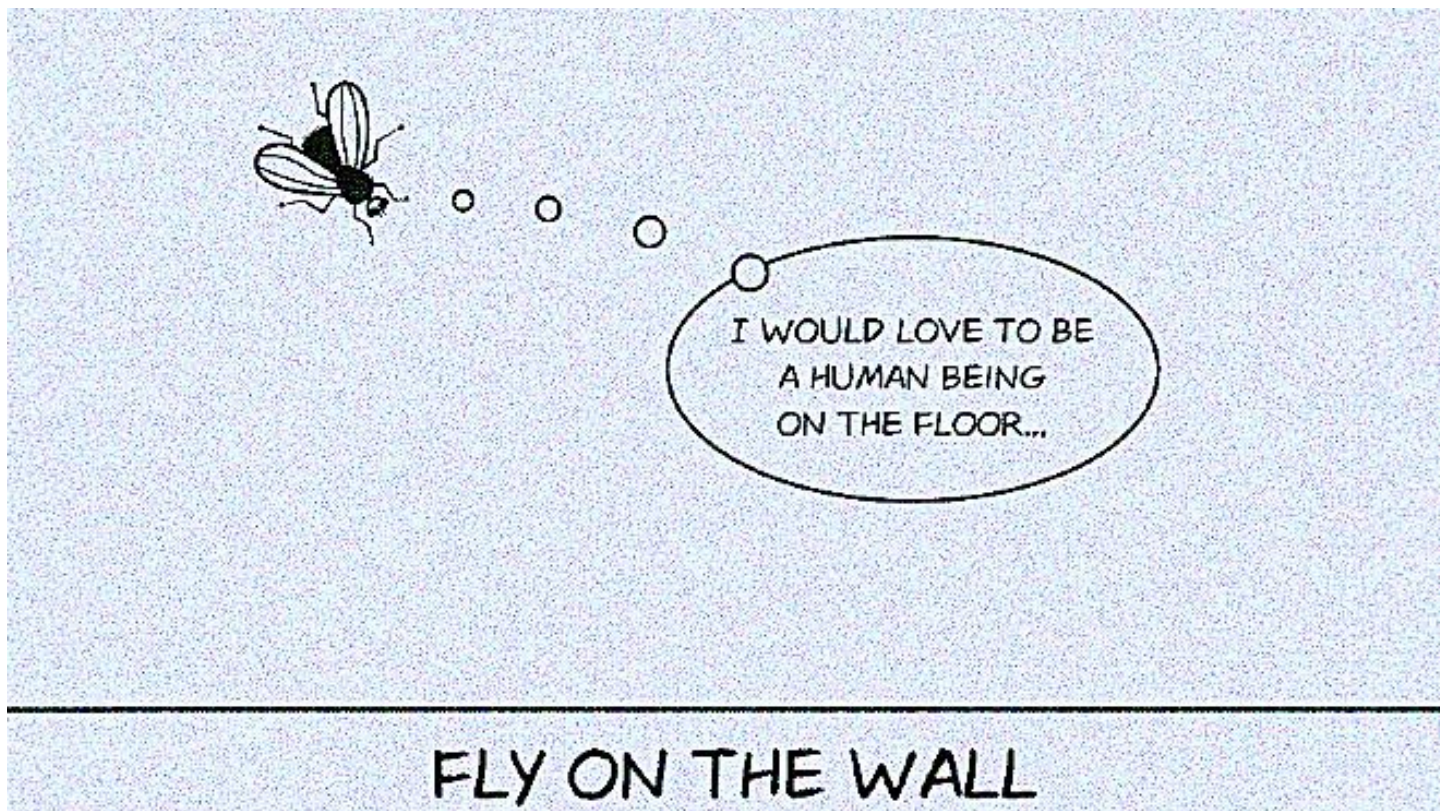

 **lêtheia**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

the gospel of  
**JOHN**

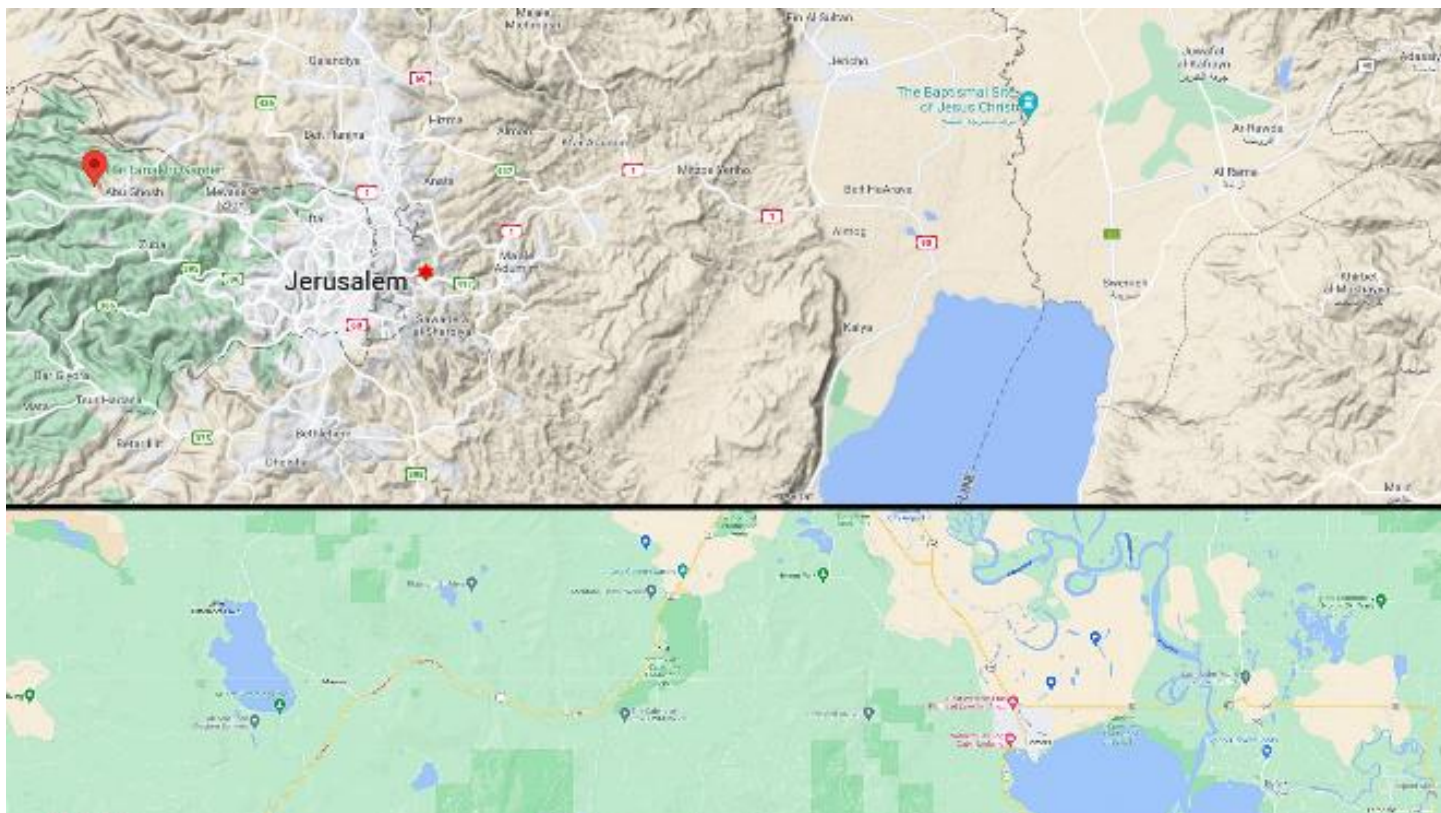
ΕΝΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΝ Η ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΘΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕ ΤΗ ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΥ ΤΟΣ Η ΝΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΡΟΣ  
 ΤΟΝ ΘΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΓΕΝΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΧΑΤΙΣ



Last week we closed chapter 10 and opened chapter 11. We saw that Jesus had moved from the city of Jerusalem in Judea, where the “Jews” were actively trying to kill Him, to the rural riverside area where John the Baptist had conducted most of his ministry. It is on the east side of the Jordan River about 6 miles east of Jericho, in what is now the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Then it was in the province of Perea, which was ruled by Herod Antipas, the guy who had John beheaded at the request of Salome – his niece and grandniece, turned stepdaughter, later to be his sister-in-law (I know, right?).



Put yourself in the scene... Part of this weekly exercise is to help us get to know Jesus better. We can't do that if we keep the narrative at arm's length.



Jesus was informed by messenger that His friend Lazarus was sick and needed His immediate help. Jesus prophetically announced that this episode with Lazarus would not end up with him dead.

It would be completely reasonable to think that the messenger returned straightaway to Bethany with Jesus' response, that Lazarus would be fine. And then Jesus intentionally stayed where He was for two more days. This would have made sense to everyone.



Bethany was a mere 45-minute walk from the council chambers of the Jewish leaders seeking to murder Him and He had already prophesied that Lazarus didn't need His help.



It wasn't like Jesus was hiding in a cave playing cards. He was actively doing ministry. We get the clue at the end of chapter 10. People were flocking to Him and He was tending to them, teaching them, healing them, blessing them. After the two extra days, Jesus abruptly told His disciples that it was time to go back to Judea.





They objected by reminding Him, as if He forgot, that the “Jews” in Judea were actively seeking to stone Him to death. Jesus responded, “Sorry, I guess I’ve been hanging around Joe Biden too much.” Jesus actually responded with a proverb essentially meaning that He needed to fulfill His mission while His mission could be fulfilled...



John 11:1-16, 1Now a certain man was sick: Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." 5(Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and Lazarus.) 6So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was. 7Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." 8The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now

seeking to stone You, and yet You are going there again?" 9Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11This He said, and after this He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going so that I may awaken him from sleep." 12The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will come out of it." 13Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about actual sleep. 14So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus died, 15and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let's go to him." 16Therefore Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's also go, so that we may die with Him!"

One of our problems in reading the Bible in English is that we read so quickly we get ahead of ourselves and miss the finer details. Going more slowly we can easily see how the confusion of the Disciples arose.

1) What they knew was that a messenger had brought word from Lazarus' sisters that their brother was ailing.

2) Further, that upon receiving that message, Jesus confidently proclaimed that it would be no problem, specifically that he would not die.

3) Then He calmly went about His business at the Jordan for two more days, evidently without a hint that there was any concern.

4) Finally, seemingly out of the blue, Jesus told the Disciples “Let us go to Judea again.” without mentioning why – without mentioning Lazarus, whom they assumed would not die.

There’s no evidence that the disciples would have connected Lazarus’ condition with Jesus’ command to go to Judea in verse 7. Of course, they would react the way that they did. “Good grief Lord, why in the world would we go where people are trying to kill You?” Only after their natural objection and His proverbial response did Jesus give them the reason for the return trip to Judea, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep.”

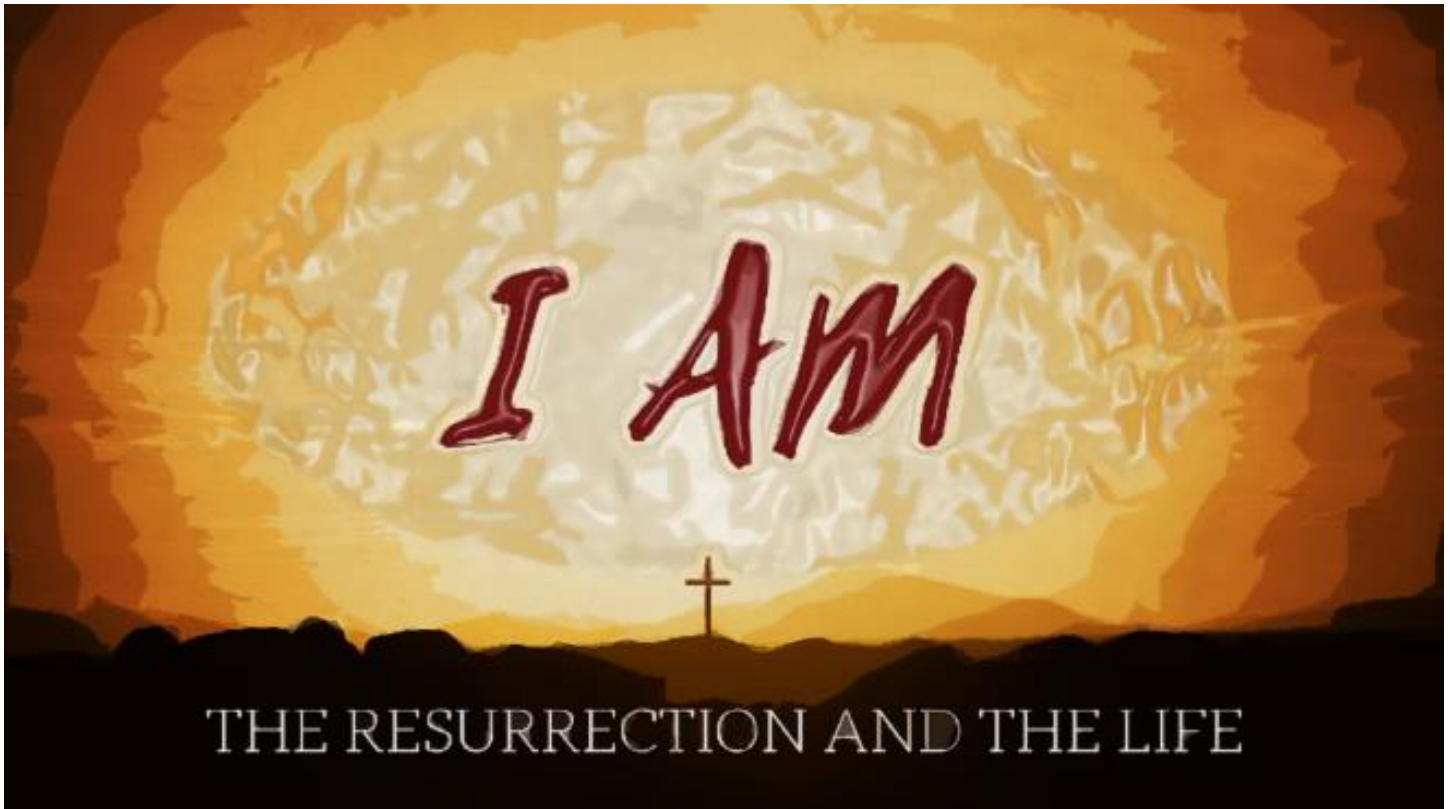
They naturally assumed that Lazarus being able to sleep was a good thing – the rest would make him better. They took Jesus’ euphemism as actual sleep rather than death because Jesus had already said that the illness would not end in death. Beyond that, since Jesus knew what had happened as well as what was

going to happen, He gave no hint that tragedy had struck. He wasn't mourning because He knew a little something about life and death and life again.

From His words, His actions, and His demeanor, the disciples had no sense that anything bad was happening – except of course, Jesus' desire to go back to Judea.

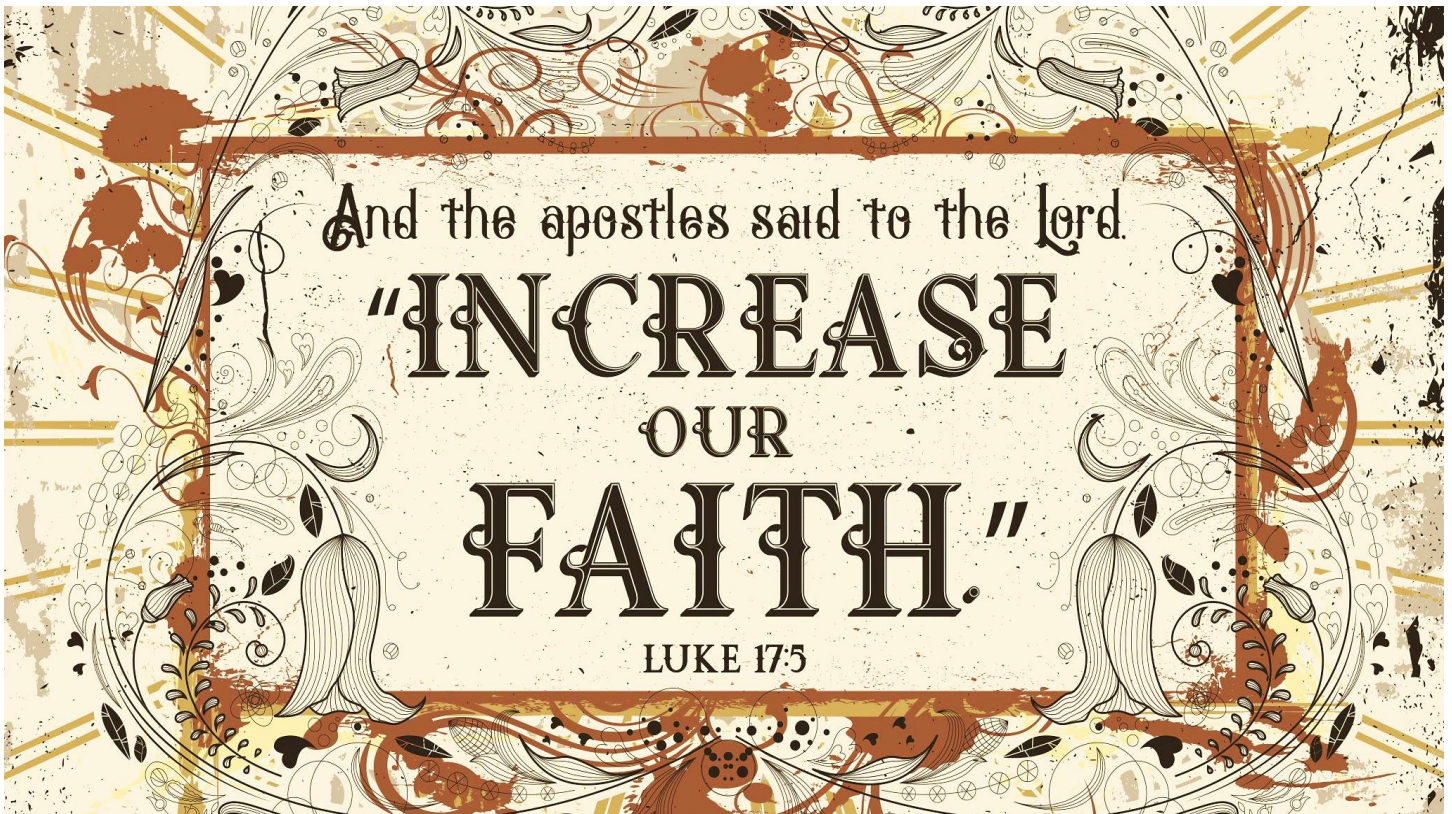


With no indication that Lazarus needed help, they were spring-loaded to assume that he was okay, especially since, if that were the case, there wouldn't be a need to go to Judea. That's the source of their seemingly foolish confusion.



In verse 11, Jesus said, “Our friend,” plural, which corresponds with “Let us go,” plural in verse 7, but then He said, in the last half of verse 11, “but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep,” singular.

Jesus and His disciples are in this thing together – they are family, but make no mistake about it, they will not raise Lazarus. It is Jesus, and Jesus alone, Who exists as the Lifeforce of Almighty God – Who gives eternal Life to whomever He chooses, Who is the “Resurrection and the Life.”



After clarifying Lazarus' true condition "plainly," Jesus told them that He was "glad" for their sakes that He "was not there," because the outcome of the present course of events would result in a tremendous faith boost for them. One which they would need.

This can only mean that had Jesus been in Bethany earlier, the outcome would have provided less of a faith boost. Why? Well, the assumption is that if Jesus had left for Bethany right away, He would have healed Lazarus and he would not have died. A faith building miracle to be sure, but not anything like what was going to happen.

It's probably not true. Even if Jesus had raced to Bethany after receiving the news about him, it would have likely been too late. Lazarus, almost certainly died right around the time that Jesus received the message. I'll explain that in a moment, but the thing to realize is that's not what Jesus was saying. What He was saying is if He had been with Lazarus prior to his death, there may have been a faith-building miracle, but it wouldn't have had the impact that it will under these present circumstances.

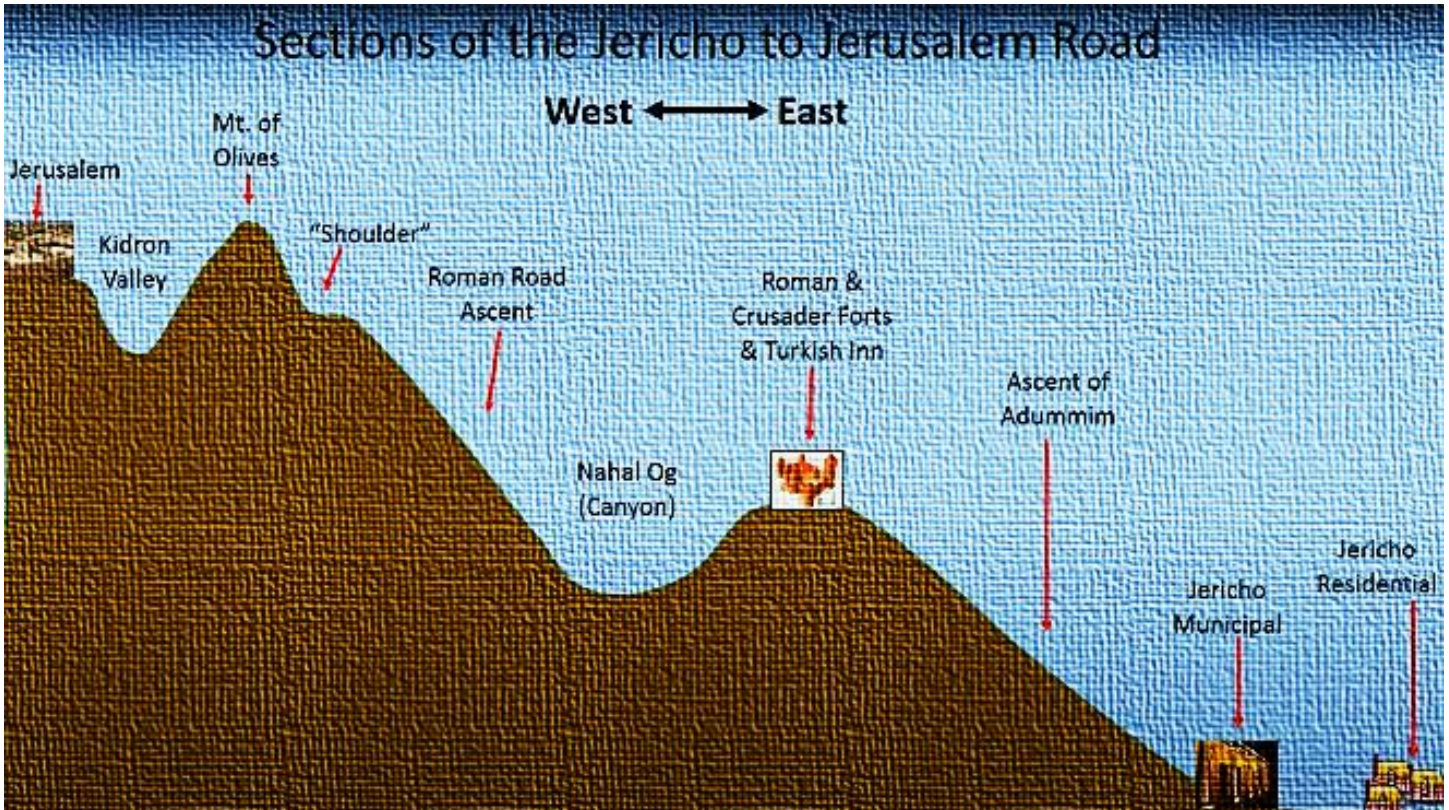
Let's ponder that for a moment. God allows people to do what people do and evil chaos ensues. Due to our sin, we have the corruption of the material world, to include our material bodies. God uses that ruination of His good, to do good. After all, what's better than building man's faith in Him?

Faith is what activates individual Salvation. Faith is what enables ongoing sanctification. Faith is the key to knowing and following Jesus. So yes Lord, "Increase our faith."

Now, at what cost? What price are you willing to pay for faith in Him? Faith is never free. There is no true faith without trial. The wise person says to God, yes Lord,



“Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8). In other words, it is only the test of faith that builds faith. Do you want a more comfortable and pleasant life, or do you want more faith in God?



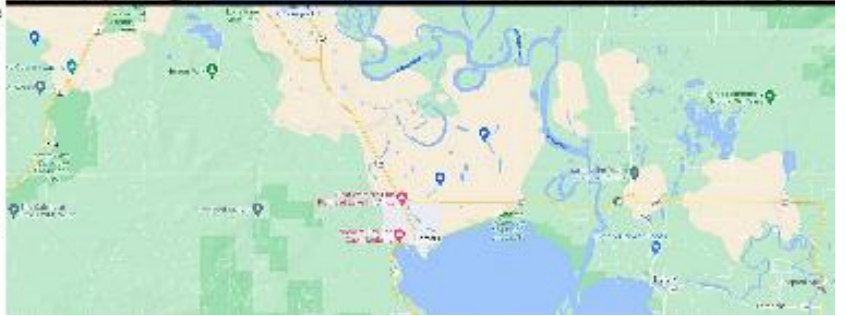
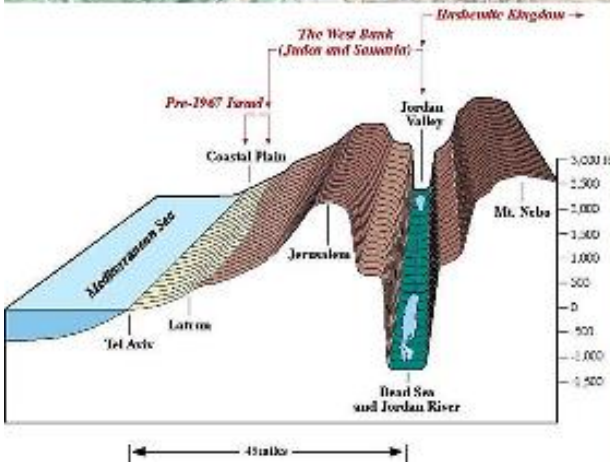
The timeline of the present event most likely goes like this... Jesus was a full day's journey from Bethany. It was almost 24 miles by road with a little up and down, but mostly down, so it was a distance that could be covered in a day, although many folks would have spent the night in Jericho and walked the final 6 miles to where Jesus was on the Jordan the next morning.

Either way, Lazarus died the same day that Jesus received the message. Jesus waited two more days

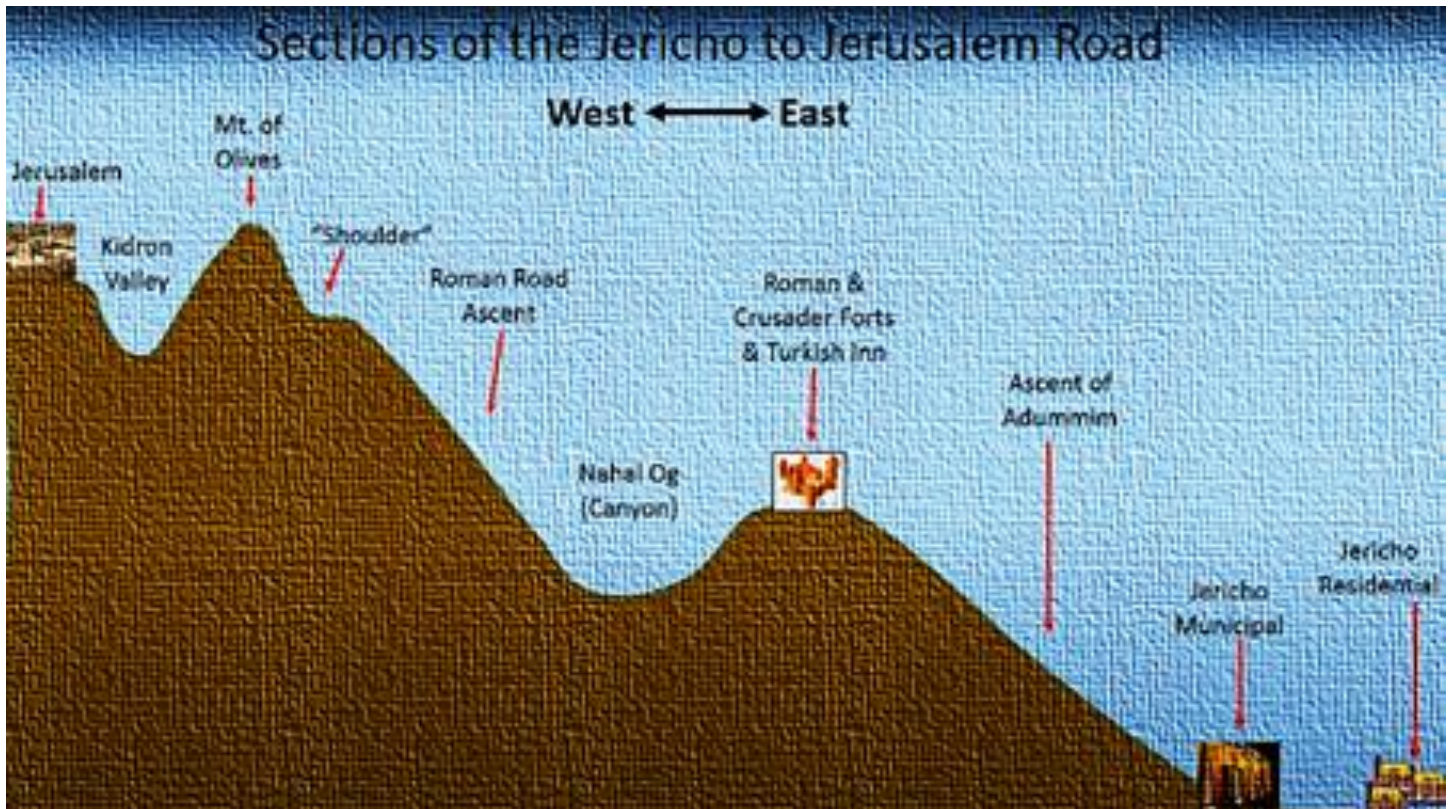
and on the third morning set off for Bethany. That's almost 24 miles by road, but now it is almost all uphill. Well, how much uphill?



The area where Jesus was ministering to the people on the east side of the Jordan River is 1,260 feet below sea level. Yes, below sea level... The shore of the Dead Sea, just five miles down-river, is the lowest land spot on the planet at 1,412 feet below sea level.







From the Jordan River site the road moves west to Jericho and then up what's called the Ascent of Adummim to about 850 feet above sea level (we've already climbed more than 2,100 feet to reach the fort and inn). From there, the road drops down more than 300 feet into the Nahal Og valley, to climb the other side to 2,300 feet above sea level at Bethany. To get to Jerusalem, you'd continue climbing the Mount of Olives and then down the other side into the Kidron valley and then up the steep hill to the city and Temple. Just to reach Bethany from where Jesus and His friends started is a total vertical climb of almost 4,000 feet. So, sure, 24 miles climbing 4,000 vertical feet could be done in a day, but it was normally tackled in two days

with a stop at the fortress and inn made famous in Jesus' parable about the "Good Samaritan."



Travel on the Jericho Road at night was unthinkable. The wilderness area between the Jordan and Jerusalem was full of bandits.



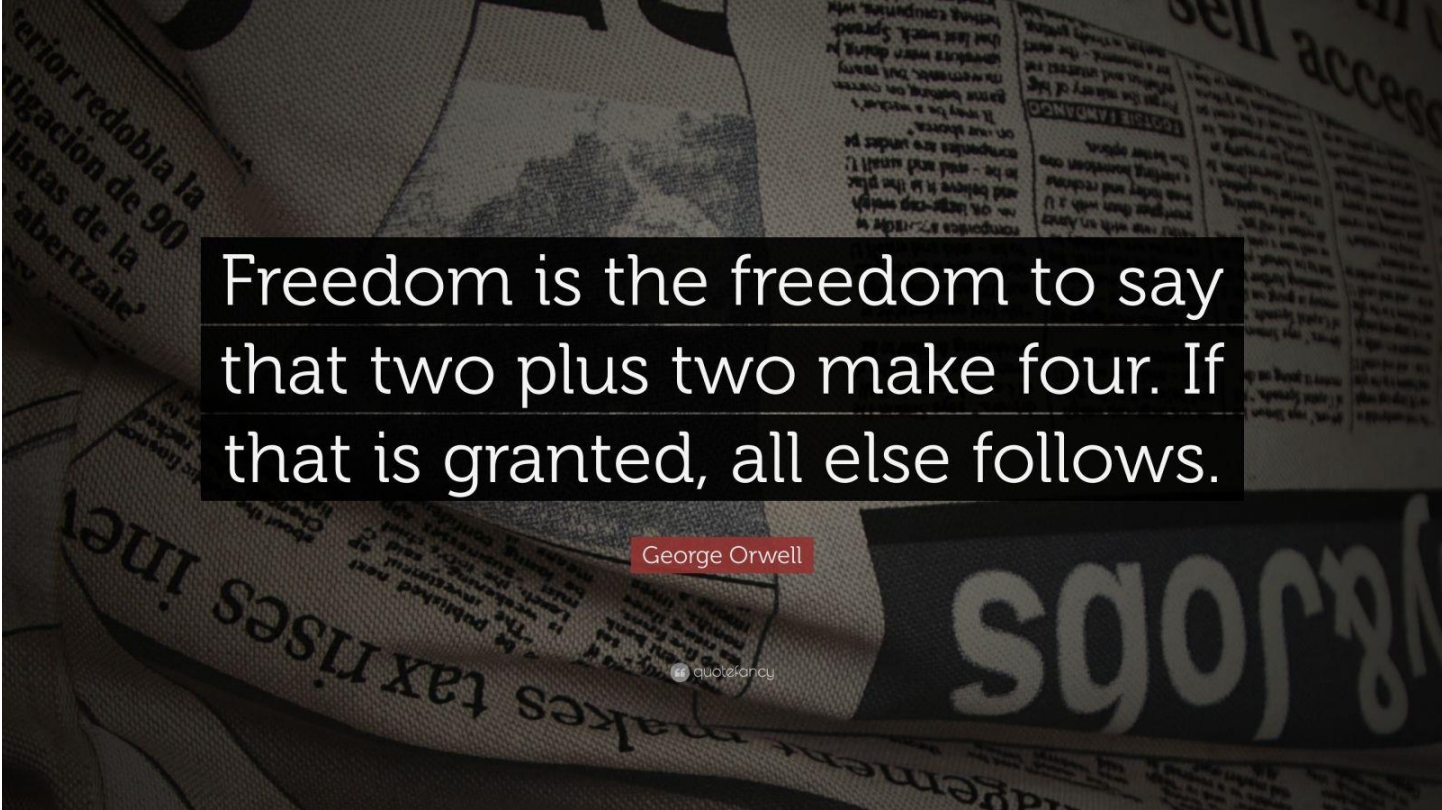
There was a fortress with a full complement of Roman Soldiers on the road for a reason, but even they would not venture out at night. This event happened about this time of year and in Israel right now there is roughly 11 hours of daylight. With the vertical, even good hikers would have to push it to make it before the boogeyman was out.



Going back to the Good Samaritan parable, Jesus made His parables profoundly shocking to really get the people's attention and drive home His point. He often did that by making His parables completely reasonable to get His audience comfortably going along with His premise. When He had them in a state of relaxed agreement, then He'd drop the hammer.

The Good Samaritan parable was entirely plausible including the ritually pure Jews in a hurry stepping over the battered man. Then all of a sudden, in a completely unexpected plot twist, a despised Samaritan saves the day – shocking. As a result, His point would never be forgotten by the Jews who heard it.





Freedom is the freedom to say  
that two plus two make four. If  
that is granted, all else follows.

George Orwell

quoteancy

Anyway, we have the two extra days at the river and then two more days on the journey up the hill to Bethany... Two plus two, equals...

Jesus had now given His guys a reason that they could understand for His desire to go back to Judea. Their friend was dead, and they needed to pay their respects and attend to Lazarus' family. So, Thomas spoke up. Thomas is a Semitic name meaning twin and so He was also called Didymus, which is the Greek name meaning twin. He may have had a twin. It is a fool's errand to try to figure out who his twin was – people have tried without success for 2,000 years.



Thomas is the dude who will doubt Jesus' Resurrection. Here, he seems a bit heroic, but what is far clearer is his lack of faith. He was an Eeyore.

His comment is either sincere or sarcastic, but either way it is a doom and gloom forecast that completely ignores Who Jesus is and what He is doing.

The way the Greek reads, Thomas was summarizing the disciples' basic sentiment as a group. None of them reacted the way we would have expected, nor the way we would hope to react ourselves, given the situation, and yet... Honestly, how many of us would have reacted better? You can bet the journey west was a

subdued one, when in reality, they should have danced all the way to Bethany given what Jesus told them He was going to do once they got there.



Now, put yourself in Jesus' sandals. How frustratingly depressing? You can see why Jesus said in Luke 9:41, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you?"



John 11:17–22, 17So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away; 19and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them about their brother. 20So then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house. 21Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”



The four days thing is important. The Jews, like most other people at the time, believed that the soul of a dead person hovered in the vicinity of the body for three days. There are all kinds of ancient stories related to heroes travelling to the underworld on some sort of quest and they have only three days to accomplish their mission. After three days there is no return from Hades.

I've talked about the meaning of "Three days and three nights" concerning Jesus before and I will again when we get to His burial and Resurrection, so for today, just realize that we are dealing with a people who had a

very ingrained belief that after three days dead, it was absolutely impossible to return to life.



The “15 stadia,” distance is approximately  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles, which is accurate. Lazarus was most likely a prominent Pharisee, or at least the son of a prominent Pharisee. Given his family’s importance to the Jewish elite and the relatively close proximity of his home to Jerusalem, there were a number of “Jews” there comforting the sisters.

Remember, by this stage in John’s Gospel the term “Jews” means those who are opposed to Jesus. In what was undoubtedly an effort by Jesus to minimize the drama of showing up unannounced at the house

with all the “Jews” there, Jesus sent word ahead that He would be arriving soon.

The disciple who was sent ahead would have secretly given the message to Martha as the older, more stable, sister. It doesn't seem as though Mary was in the loop yet. If she was aware of what was happening at that point, she intentionally stayed back to keep the “Jews” at the house. Either way, Martha set out alone and met Jesus on His approach to Bethany, probably somewhere on the eastern outskirts of the town.



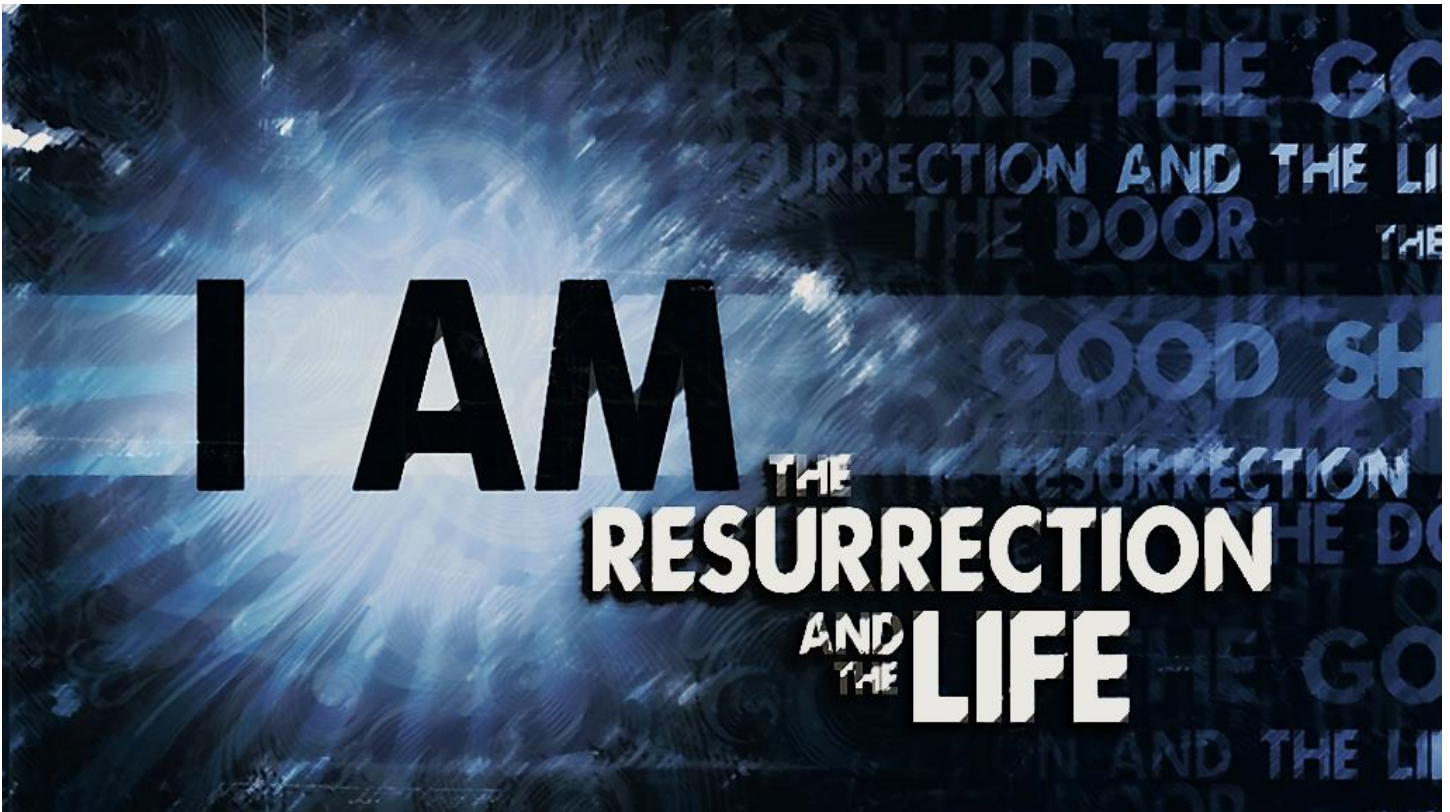
Martha's words are seemingly full of humble, yet confident faith. Notice that she boldly states that if Jesus had been there, her brother would not have died.

Further she said, “Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Well, that seems to make is absolutely clear that she not only believed that Jesus could have healed Lazarus before He died, but that He would have done so, and beyond that, He will raise Lazarus from the dead now, because she knows that Jesus wants to ask God for that, and she knows that God will grant whatever Jesus asks. “Done deal Jesus, let’s go to the tomb immediately so Lazarus can join all of us for supper.”

It seems as though there is no other way to read this... Martha was a woman with incredible faith, trust, and confidence in her Lord Jesus.

She then added, “Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” The meaning seems clear, but her reaction to Jesus’ next words seems to contradict that clear meaning. Let’s read more and see what’s going on...



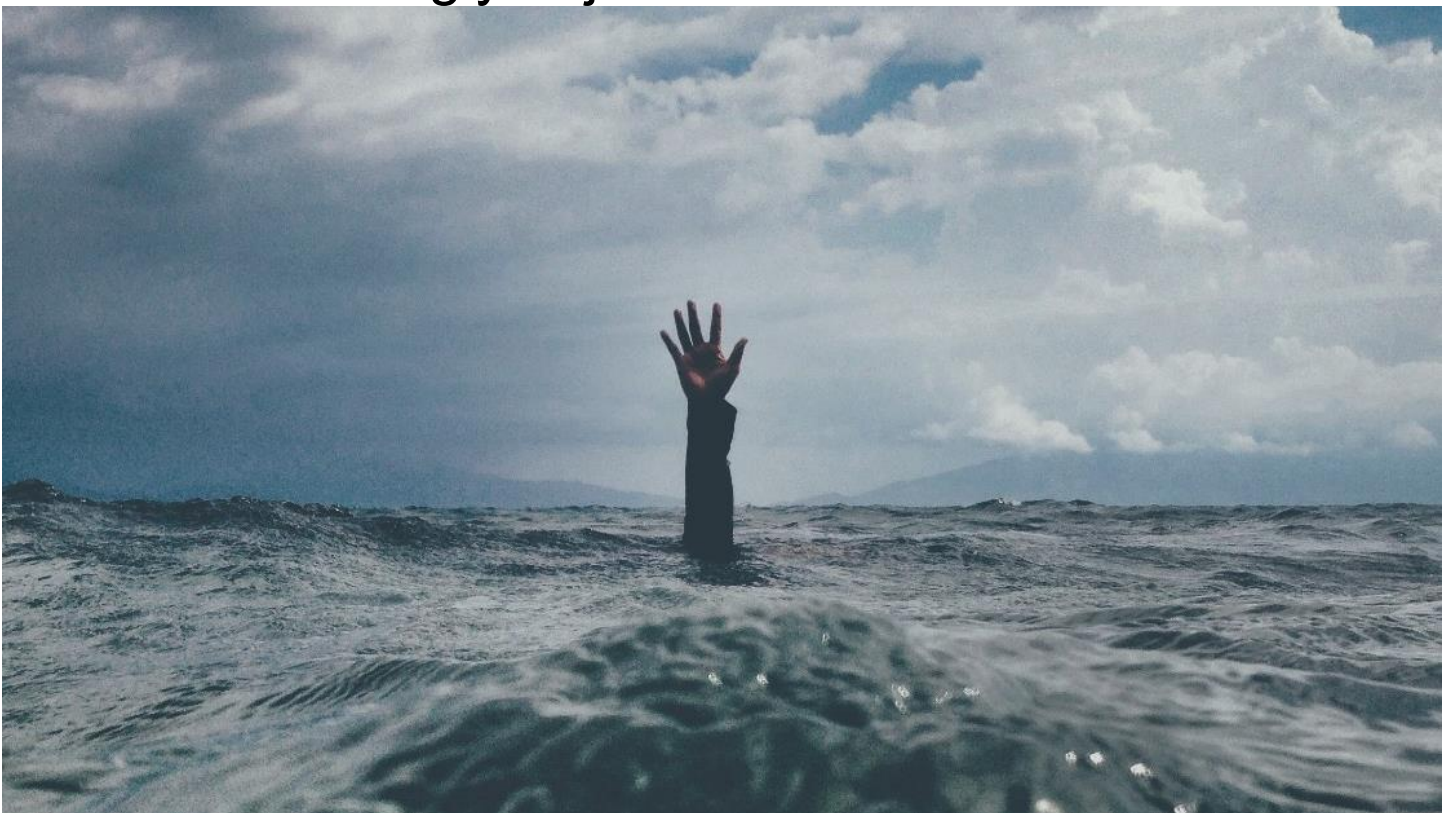


John 11:23–27, 23Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise from the dead.” 24Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, 26and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world.”

This is weighty stuff. The 5th formal “I AM” statement by Jesus and another unambiguous confession by a person concerning the Divinity and Messianic role of Jesus.

Before we get to that though, another misunderstanding. Jesus plainly told Martha that Lazarus was going to rise from the dead. She assumed that He meant at the final disposition of all things at the end of time.

That seems a bit strange given that she just said, “Even now... nothing is too difficult for God and God will do whatever You ask.” What’s even stranger is that a little later, Jesus will order Lazarus’ tomb opened and Martha will strongly object.



So, what's really going on here? Well, it's basically the same thing that goes on today with followers of Jesus. We believe, but we don't really believe.



Tragedy strikes and we get scared, upset, and hurt... and then we get frustrated, impatient, and annoyed with Jesus for not being there for us when we so desperately needed Him. Our fear and pain make us emotional, and our lack of faith makes us shortsighted.

Do you sincerely think that Martha hadn't felt like this woman sometime in the last four days? What I can tell you for sure, based on context and syntax, based on human nature and grief, and based on what the Bible

tells us about Martha's personality elsewhere, she was upset when she approached Jesus.

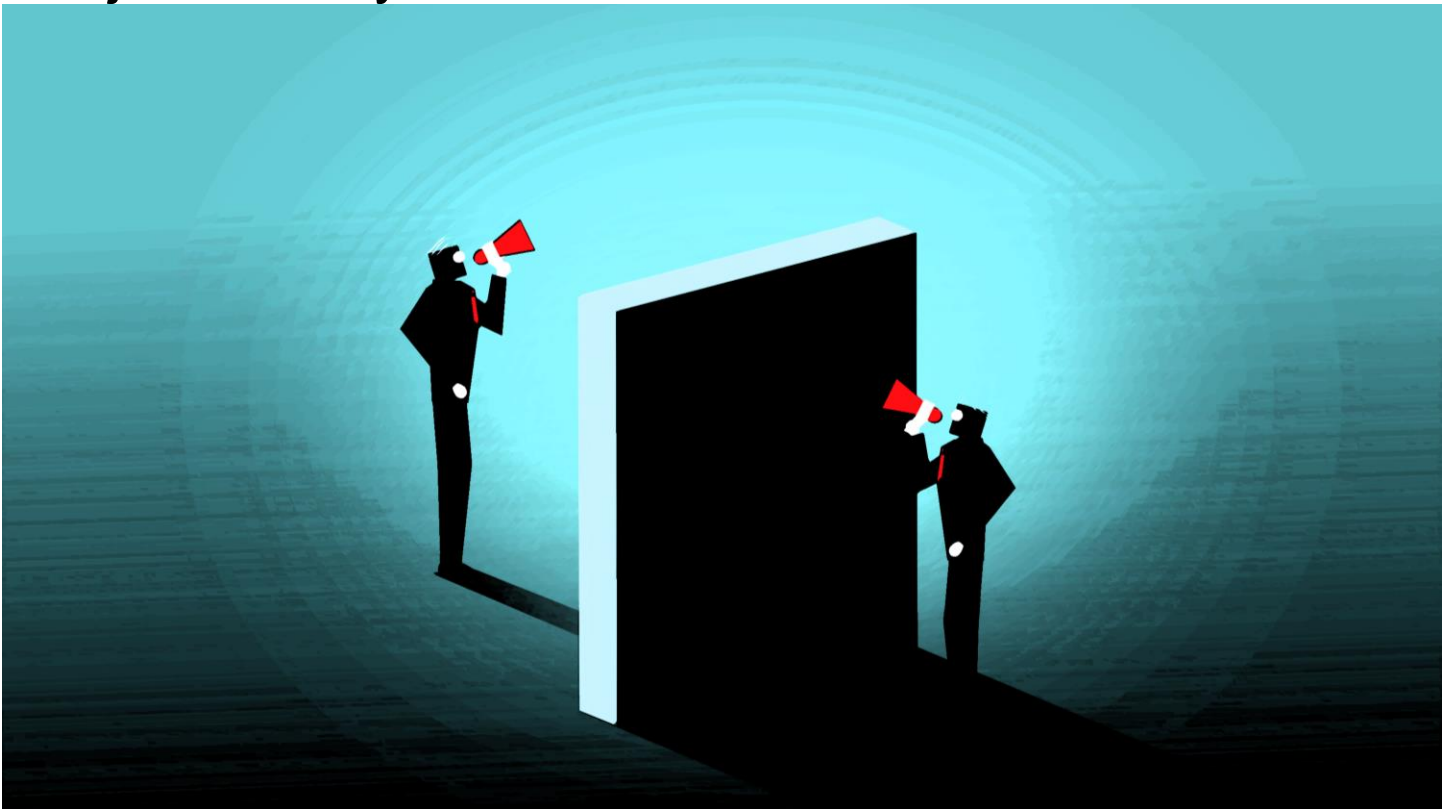
What we can discern in her opening statement, of seemingly exalted faith, is an obvious rebuke. Make no mistake about it, Martha was scared, upset, and hurt... and by now, she was frustrated, impatient and annoyed with Jesus for not being there when He was needed.

She was grieving and lashed out. She undoubtedly knew that Jesus had declared that Lazarus' condition would not end in his death and yet... She undoubtedly knew that Jesus should have arrived at least two days earlier and yet...

She was walking a line between bitter disappointment in Jesus and deep respect for Him as both a friend and as her Lord. We know what she said. It is her tone that we must reconstruct. It was more like, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. I still believe that whatever You ask of God, God will give You. So, why weren't You here in time?"

Jesus responded with patience and understanding, but Martha was not consoled by Jesus' words "Your brother will rise again." She had heard nothing but

those words for days. That's exactly what the "Jews" had been telling her. It's what we Christians say at a time like that. It's true, but it comes off as a platitude. She basically told Jesus, "Yes, fine, I know, I've got that, but it doesn't really help all that much right now – I've just lost my brother."



So, Jesus, once again, clarified His meaning. Now, before we go on think about that for a moment. Why did Jesus have to clarify His meaning so much? Was Jesus a poor communicator, or was He intentionally trying to be confounding?

Well, as you might imagine, it was neither. Jesus was showing that the shortest distance between two points was a straight line.

His misunderstood statements are crystal clear to those of us who have already heard the story. We're not confused at all by Jesus' words. We easily understand both His primary meaning and His secondary meaning. He said, "Lazarus has fallen asleep." We get that He's dead and we get that, for Jesus, death really is like sleep. Here we get that Lazarus will rise again, both in a few minutes and at the final Judgment. Since it is no problem for us to discern the double meanings, it proves that Jesus' statements were not difficult to understand if a person had the right mindset.

The problem wasn't with the Speaker, but with the hearer. Why did Jesus do that? First, it was to be concisely precise in giving a double meaning that He intended to give. Second, it was to reveal the mindset or the heart of His audience.

Anyone in tune with Jesus and thinking spiritually would have gotten it the first time around. Martha wasn't that in tune with Jesus or spiritually minded

enough to get it and so, once again, Jesus clarified with, as I mentioned, His 5th formal “I AM” statement.



“I AM the resurrection and the life.” Good grief, given the context, if that’s not a claim to absolute divinity I don’t know what is.

He went on to expound on the statement claiming the power that only God Himself can wield. The person who believes in Jesus can never truly die. Jesus pointedly asked Martha, “Do you believe this?”



Her response was a magnificent confession of faith in Jesus. Like us Martha believed... And like us, she needed help with her unbelief... still.



It's so easy to believe very strongly when we have a handle on things, but as soon as the monkey wrench gets thrown into the operation... well, it's not so easy.

My friends, when you're in the midst of a trial it's too late to be spiritually ready for it. Preparation for testing comes before the test. Pray this Biblical plea every day. Train every day for the battle ahead – I promise you that it is coming, and I promise you that the stronger your faith in Jesus, the better it will go.

The disciples assumed things that led to misunderstanding and a demonstrated lack of faith. Thomas assumed things that led to misunderstanding and a demonstrated lack of faith. Martha assumed things that led to misunderstanding and a demonstrated lack of faith. In every case the things assumed were the things seen with physical eyes.

What are you assuming? What kind of eyes are you using to look at things?



February 26, 2023

*“Do You Believe Enough?”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

**Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00**

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ [www.myaletheia.com](http://www.myaletheia.com)

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

Emails: [pastor@myaletheia.com](mailto:pastor@myaletheia.com), [stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com](mailto:stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com)

**JOHN 11:1-16 ~**

Why were the Disciples confused?

- 1) They knew that a messenger had brought word that Lazarus was ailing.
- 2) Further, that Jesus said that it would be no problem.
- 3) Jesus calmly went about His business for two more days.
- 4) Then Jesus announced, “Let us go to Judea again.”

From Jesus’ words, actions, and demeanor, the disciples had no sense that anything bad was happening. They were spring-loaded to **ASSUME** things...

In verse 11, Jesus went from plural, to singular. They will not raise Lazarus; Jesus will raise Lazarus.

Faith is what activates individual Salvation, and faith is what enables ongoing sanctification. Faith is the key to knowing and following Jesus. So yes Lord, “Increase our faith.”

Now, at what cost? What price are you willing to pay for faith in Him? (Isaiah 6:8).

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

Lazarus died the same day that Jesus received the message. Then the two extra days at the river and two more days on the journey up the hill to Bethany.

Jesus had now given His guys a reason that they could understand for His desire to go back to Judea.

Thomas seems a bit heroic, but what is far clearer is his lack of faith. He **ASSUMED** things.

**JOHN 11:17-22 ~**

The four days thing is important. The ancients believed that after three days in hades a return was impossible.

Jesus sent word ahead that He would be arriving soon, and Martha went out alone to meet Him. Her words are seemingly full of humble, yet confident faith.

**JOHN 11:23-27 ~**

Jesus plainly told Martha that Lazarus was going to rise from the dead. She **ASSUMED** that He meant at the end of time.

That seems a bit strange given what she just said.

So, what’s really going on here? Well, it’s basically the same thing that goes on today with followers of Jesus. We believe, but we don’t really believe.

Tragedy strikes and we get scared, upset, and hurt... and then we get frustrated, impatient, and annoyed with Jesus for not being there for us when we so desperately needed Him. Our fear and pain make us emotional, and our lack of faith makes us shortsighted.

So, Jesus, once again, clarified His meaning. None of Jesus’ statements were difficult to understand if a person had the right mindset.

His 5th formal “I AM” statement. Jesus pointedly asked Martha, “Do you believe this?”

Her response was a magnificent confession of faith in Jesus. Like us Martha believed... And like us, she needed help with her unbelief... Don’t **ASSUME**.

-----  
Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_