

Break Away: John 11

April 24 & 25

Growing tension between religious leaders in Jerusalem and Jesus.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus are Jesus' close friends, his home when he is in the Jerusalem area.

Why did Jesus wait two days?

- Glory of God. They will experientially know more of God's glory.
- He spent time in prayer to know what His Father wanted, God's plan.
- Jesus is glad for the opportunity to increase the faith of his disciples and Martha, Mary and Lazarus because he loves them. (v14-15) McLaughlin: Jesus worked to
 - Forge connection with people.
 - Frame action, help the onlookers understand what he was doing.
 - Feature tension, a push and pull with His interlocutor.
 - Force a reaction, either positive or negative.

Disciples understood the tension with and rejection by the Jewish leaders. (v8, 16)

John 11 repeats the thinking of 9:1-5 in the story of the Blind Man.

- Glorious God will be more revealed.
- It is still day. We can safely do God's work. But night is coming.
- Two themes we already talked about verses 11-16
 - Jesus works to deepen the faith of his disciples. Lets them see who God is.
 - Let's go too and die with Jesus. Jesus is committed. So are his disciples.

Four days dead (v17). NT beliefs about death and when the spirit departs.

Jesus' conversation with Martha (v21-27):

- If only you had been here... Words of grief and faith.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again. Helping Martha to focus on a bigger picture. End-of-time resurrection comforting.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life (v25).

- Resurrection Life is here, now, a person to relate to know, to trust in.
- Jesus is letting Martha know more of who he really is.

Jesus: Anyone who believes in me will live even after dying. (v25).

- Resurrection of our bodies after our physical death is connected to our believing in the person of Jesus, just like Martha is being asked to believe. Not in a doctrine.

Jesus: Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

- Jesus says again something he said in John 5:21-29
- These words will become very, very real to the people who were there.

Martha: Yes, Lord (v27). Affirms her faith in what she can understand.

Jesus wants a similar faith conversation with Mary. (v28-30)

Mary: If only you had been here.... The conversation starts the same but can't continue. There is such a scene going on.

Words for crying and upset.

- Mary's weeping --loud crying.
- Jesus deeply moved, greatly troubled--angry or indignant. Maybe...
 - He sees death so differently.
 - He wants faith building conversation with Mary
- Jesus wept---to shed tears. Why is Jesus sad?
 - Sin and death and, maybe most of all, unbelief.
 - 'He has borne our griefs, 'and carried our sorrows.' (Isaiah 53.4)
 - Maybe he is crying for his own upcoming death.
- Jesus is still angry or indignant. Facing the enemy, Death.

Jesus' prayer (v41-42)

- His direct reference to God as 'Father.'
- Jesus has already asked for Lazarus' life, now thanking God for it.
- Out loud for the people so they hear the intimacy of Jesus' relationship with the Father, and know that he Jesus does nothing by himself

"Lazarus, come out!" And he does.

Reactions of the people who were there. (v45-46)

- Some believe. They saw God at work defeating death.
- Others can't see God at work, they see a threat and report to the religious leaders.

Supreme Court, the Sanhedrin, is convened. Jesus is condemned. (v47-52)

Jesus withdraws to Ephraim. (53-54) Maybe 12 miles NE of Jerusalem.

Passover is soon. People already arriving in Jerusalem for Passover. (v55-57)

- Everyone is looking for him.
- The Jewish leaders have put out the Wanted Posters. Jesus is to be reported for arrest as soon as he is spotted.

Parallels between Lazarus' death and resurrection and Jesus'.

- Why couldn't he have healed Lazarus? Why doesn't he save himself?
- Tomb with a rolled stone to close. Grave cloths.
- Women weeping at a tomb. Women will weep at his tomb.
- Differences: the grave clothes. Lazarus is still wearing them. Jesus raises through the grave clothes. They are left lying on the stone bench where he laid. A different kind of physical/spiritual body.