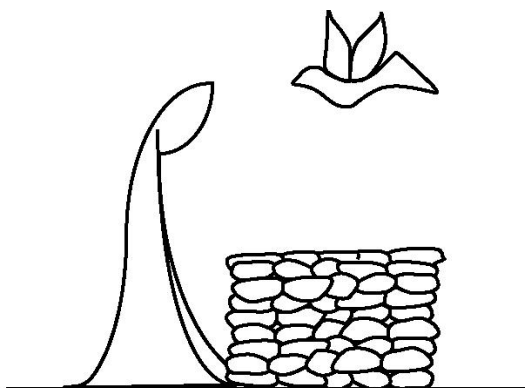


**Waiting Upon the Lord**  
*A Bible Study on*  
*John Chapter 11*

**By**  
**Kimberly Miller**



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## ***Waiting Upon the Lord***

This passage of scripture is deep in meaning and speaks to the heart of the child of God. Each time you study this passage, you will no doubt learn something new and walk away with a rejuvenated spirit and a filled heart. As we look at these scriptures together, I ask that you read the passage in its entirety prior to beginning our journey, step by step through this passage, and as always bathe your study in prayer.

I have divided the passage into sections, highlighting the truths as they appear in my heart and mind. Following my exposition of the selected verses, you will find questions pertaining to the truths revealed in that section of the study. Please read those questions and answer them fully before moving to the next section. Finally, at the end of each section, there will be an opportunity to examine your own life and to apply the truths you have learned to your particular situations. Please be honest in evaluating how you are walking with God and commit in your heart to follow more closely. Remember the purpose of this study, and any study of the Bible, is to strengthen your Godly walk by knowing Him more fully. We needn't hang our head in shame but instead repent of the error of our ways and allow Him to have His perfect will in our lives, molding us into what He would have us be. Daily we need to remember, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (I John 1:9).

## **John 11:1-45**

*1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.*

*2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)*

*3 Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.*

*4 When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*

*5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.*

*6 When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was.*

*7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.*

*8 His disciples say unto Him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?*

*9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.*

*10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.*

*11 These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.*

*12 Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.*

*13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.*

*14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*

*15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.*

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*16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*

*17 Then when Jesus came, He found that he had lain in the grave four days already.*

*18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:*

*19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.*

*20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house.*

*21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.*

*22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.*

*23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.*

*24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*

*25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

*26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

*27 She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*

*28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.*

*29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.*

*30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met Him.*

*31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up*

*hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.*

*32 Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.*

*33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,*

*34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see.*

*35 Jesus wept.*

*36 Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!*

*37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?*

*38 Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.*

*39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.*

*40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?*

*41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.*

*42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.*

*43 And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*

*44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

*45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had  
seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.*  
(King James Version)

# **Section I**

## **A Personal Relationship with Christ**

*“Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.” (John 11:1-3 KJV)*

### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Lazarus, Mary and Martha knew Jesus very well. They were well acquainted with Him and had established a personal relationship with Him. He was no stranger to them because He was a frequent guest in their home. Mary had a pattern of service and worship to Him. She had laid aside her pride and had humbled herself before Jesus, anointing His feet and wiping them with her hair. The scriptures leave no doubt as to the relationship that Lazarus had with Jesus. The scripture says, *“behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.”* Martha obviously knew Him well as well because at the first sign of trouble, both of the sisters sent for Jesus.

1. Who are the main characters of this passage?

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2. Examine closely the relationship that had been established among these people, paying close

attention to the personal and close nature of their relationship.

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3. For what outward sign of love for Jesus was Mary known?

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4. What is the significance of Mary's actions?

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5. At the first sign of trouble, to whom did Mary and Martha turn?

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### **Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What relationship do you have with Jesus?

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2. Do you have a reputation as one who worships and serves Christ?

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3. Romans 2:11 says, “*For there is no respect of persons with God.*” Given that verse, read closely the phrase “*behold, he whom thou lovest.*” Now, what implications does that phrase have for you and your life?

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4. What manifestations of His love for you can you see in your life?

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5. When trouble comes your way, where do you turn...first?

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## **Section II**

### **The Issue**

*“When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days still in the same place where He was” (John 11:4-6 KJV).*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Jesus hears of the news of the sickness that has befallen Lazarus and declares that this sickness is not for the death of Lazarus but for the Glory of God. He then reiterates His love for Martha, Mary and Lazarus. He tells us this once again, to make sure that we understand He loves them because what follows this verse will require faith and understanding to realize His actions still exhibit love. Jesus hears of Lazarus’ sickness but instead of running to his side, He tarries for two days. It is also worth noting that in verse 2 the scriptures are devoted to speaking of Mary and her love for God, but in verse 5 God gives Martha the center stage by calling her by name. He establishes that He loves her equally and she too, has a personal relationship with Him. This is going to be very important later on in the scriptures when we see that Mary and Martha react very differently to His later visit to their house.

1. What was the purpose of the sickness that had befallen Lazarus?

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2. Why did Jesus state once again that He loved Martha, her sister and Lazarus?

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3. What is the significance of Martha being called by name in verse 5?

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4. What was the reaction of Jesus to the news that Lazarus was sick?

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5. How did the reaction of Jesus to the news that Lazarus was sick differ from the expected reaction?

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## **Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What possible glory could God be planning for the circumstances of your life?

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2. How does your reaction to circumstances differ from the reactions of unbelievers?

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3. How is God being glorified in your life?

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4. Have you realized that God has singled you out, called you by name and invited you to a personal relationship with Him?

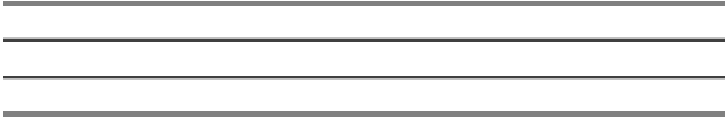
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5. Are you patiently enduring what seems to be a delay in your life?



## **Section III**

### **Christ's Bravery**

*“Then after that saith He to His disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone Thee; and goest Thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep” (John 11:7-11 KJV).*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

The scriptures often attest to the fact that God continues to bless us, provide for us and protect us even when it is inconvenient (John 4:6) or even dangerous for Him. Christ continually does not take thought for Himself but is always working for our good. Here we see that the disciples are questioning Jesus for His choice of destinations. He is choosing to go back to Judaea to Bethany to provide for His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. This is the place where people sought to stone Him to death. Yet, He continued on His way to care for His friends. He continues on His journey explaining to His disciples that there is much time when it is daylight and He can travel by light, seeing where He is going and traveling safely as He can see what lies ahead and what surrounds Him. He contrasts this with traveling at night when His surroundings would be obscured and His journey would no longer be safe.

This passage of scripture parallels our Christian walk. When we are walking in the light, as He is the light, we

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walk safely. Our surroundings will not harm us and our footsteps will be sure as we follow after Him. However, when we walk in the darkness of sin we no longer have His guidance and protection, leaving us vulnerable and placing us in harm's way. Walking in darkness we don't have His light within us to guide us. After taking this opportunity to teach His disciples the value and importance of walking in His light, He tells them the reason for His journey. He explains that their friend Lazarus sleeps and that He must awaken him. In verse 4 of John 11, Jesus had stated the purpose for this entire passage, "*that the Son of God might be glorified.*" Now, He was telling them how this purpose would come about. Thus we see that Jesus was going to Bethany to fulfill His divine purpose and therefore nothing was going to stand in His way of accomplishing that which He had set out to do.

1. What sacrifice was Jesus making when He went to Judaea?

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2. What mission did Jesus have to complete in Judaea?

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3. What was Jesus really talking about when He spoke of walking in the day as opposed to walking in the night?

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4. What is the personal relationship that Jesus and Lazarus share that He once again reiterates in this passage?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What divine purpose did God set out to fulfill when He came to earth?

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2. How important is it that Jesus fulfilled His divine purpose for coming to earth?

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3. Do you neglect opportunities of service to God because they are inconvenient or may cause you to sacrifice some comfort?

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4. Are you walking in darkness or in the light?

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5. How does your life daily glorify Jesus?

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## **Section IV**

### **Clarifying the Situation**

*“Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him” (John 11:12-15 KJV).*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

The disciples are confused. They think that Jesus is referring to the condition of Lazarus as just being asleep, or resting. Jesus is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:3) therefore He wants the disciples to clearly understand the truth. So, He declares unto them that Lazarus is not resting. He is dead. After realizing that the disciples were not in tune enough with the Spirit to understand what was unfolding before them, He said to them that He was glad that Lazarus was not just sick and resting but that He was dead so that the disciples would have the opportunity to see His power, to comprehend the spiritual truths related to this situation and to increase their faith by believing in Him more fully.

1. What do the disciples think is going on with Lazarus?

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2. How do the thoughts of the disciples differ from the truth?

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3. Are the disciples looking with worldly eyes or with spiritual discernment?

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4. Why does Jesus explain to His disciples the condition of Lazarus?

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5. What spiritual transformation awaits the disciples as they see the power of God unfold?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Is it the intent of God to make you confused?

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2. Will God make His will for you and your life clearly understood by you?

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3. Can you see the spiritual truths unfolding in the circumstances of your life?

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4. What miracles has He done in your life that should cause you to believe in Him?

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5. Do you believe in the omnipotence and the omniscience of God?

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## **Section V**

# **Sacrificing out of Love for Christ**

*“Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with Him”*  
(John 11:16 KJV).

### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Thomas recognized the fact that the trip into Bethany would be a dangerous trip. In fact from his wording, it seems that Thomas was convinced that a journey with Jesus into Bethany would result in death. He knew that people lay in wait to kill Jesus and that by associating himself with Him that he was placing himself in the same danger. The love that Thomas had for Jesus was so strong that he was willing to die because of it and so compelling that he pleaded with the other disciples to do the same.

1. What danger awaited Jesus in Bethany?

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2. What motivated Thomas to want to accompany Jesus to Bethany?

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3. Why did Thomas plead with his fellow disciples to accompany Jesus?

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4. Was Thomas fully aware that he too would be in danger if he followed Jesus?

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5. How did Thomas demonstrate his devotion and love for Jesus with his actions?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What is the worst that can happen to you today if you associate yourself with Christ?

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2. Are you motivated to serve Jesus?

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3. What motivates you to serve Jesus?

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4. What are the limits of your devotion and love for Jesus?

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5. How do your actions demonstrate your love and devotion for Jesus?

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## **Section VI**

### **The Witnesses**

*“Then when Jesus came, He found that he had lain in the grave four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.” (John 11:17-19 KJV).*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

When Jesus arrives in Bethany at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, He finds that Lazarus had already been dead four days. Lazarus was not only dead, he had been dead for four days. Now, their house was about 1.7 miles from Jerusalem (furlong = 606 ft and nine inches). Because of the short distance from Jerusalem to Bethany many of the Jews came to visit with Martha and Mary. Not only did they want to comfort them concerning their brother, but also they were going to be the crowd that witnessed the incredible miracle soon to be performed by Jesus. They were going to be there as the Glory of the Lord was manifested.

1. How long had Lazarus been dead before Jesus came?

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2. What is the significance of Lazarus being dead four days?

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3. Why were there so many Jews at the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. What event is taking place in your life that seems hopeless?

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2. What difference will it make if you invite the presence of Jesus into your situation?

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3. Who is watching your life, that the Glory of God may be manifested?

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## **Section VII**

# **The Response to the coming of Jesus**

*“Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him: but Mary sat still in the house” (John 11:20 KJV).*

### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she ran out to meet Him. Mary chose to stay still. Many people look at this scripture and begin to find all sort of fault with Mary. It is easy to see that Martha was eager to meet with Jesus but it is a little more difficult to see that Mary was glad to see Jesus too. Martha couldn't wait and ran straight to Him. Mary chose to wait on God. This is more evident in subsequent scriptures when Mary immediately responds to His beckoning of her. The important issue with their responses is that they did respond and each of them responded with a heart that was looking for Jesus. Martha ran ahead and sought Him, while Mary stayed behind and waited for Him. Both were seeking Him.

1. How did Martha respond to the coming of Jesus?

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2. How did Mary respond to the coming of Jesus?

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3. What was in the hearts of Martha and Mary?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Do you recognize the presence of Jesus in your life?

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2. How do you respond to the presence of Jesus in your life?

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3. How can we go out and meet Him without getting ahead of Him?

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4. Do you wait on God?

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5. How can we both seek Him and wait upon Him at the same time?

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## **Section VIII**

### **Martha's faith revealed**

*“Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee”*(John 11:21-22 KJV).

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

It would be easy at first glance to determine that Martha was chastising Jesus for not being there when Lazarus died. But a closer view of this scripture reveals Martha's heart. Martha is demonstrating her faith in Jesus and her knowledge of His power by telling Jesus that if He had been there then her brother would not have died. She is not chastising Him. She is honoring Him and praising Him with her lips, revealing from the depths of her heart her love, respect and admiration of Him. This is clearly seen in her next statement. She not only believes His presence would have kept Lazarus from dying but she knows that because of who He is that if He would just ask God then God would grant to Him His request. She knows that even in the darkest of situations, when all hope seems lost, that Jesus can change it all. She knows that He has the power to bring light to any dark situation and that nothing is hopeless with Jesus. Martha believes and her words reveal her heart, demonstrating the strength of her faith.

1. What would a person quick to judge first think Martha was thinking in verse 20?

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2. What was the real intent of Martha's words?

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3. How strong is Martha's faith?

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4. Was anything able to detour Martha's faith?

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5. Where was Martha placing her faith?

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6. How well did Martha know Jesus?

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7. Even in the darkest of situations, was Martha hopeless?

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8. What was the source of Martha's hope?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. It is so easy to be quick to judge, but this verse shows us the tragedy of such actions. Are you quick to judge others?

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2. How strong is your faith in Jesus?

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3. What are the things that cause your faith to waiver?

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4. Where are you placing your faith?

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5. How well do you know Jesus?

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6. Are you living life as if you are hopeless?

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7. Do you that Jesus is your hope and that He cannot fail?

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## **Section IX**

### **Jesus is the resurrection and the life**

*“Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”* (John 11:23-27 KJV)

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Martha comes to Jesus troubled that her brother has died. The first words that Jesus speaks to Martha are comforting words to put her fears to rest. Not only does Jesus tell Martha that her brother will rise again but He also tells her who He is and lets her know His amazing power. He takes the time to plainly tell Martha that He is life and in Him is eternal life. After seeing her face-to-face and revealing Himself to her, He then asks her if she believes Him. And without hesitation or doubt she answers Him with a convincing yes and further establishes her understanding of who He is by saying, *“Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”*

1. Where did Martha go when she was troubled?

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2. Who does Christ say that He is?

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3. What does Christ promise to those who believe His words?

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4. Whom does Martha say that Christ is?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Where do you go when you find yourself in trouble?

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2. Have you claimed the promises of God?

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3. Whom do you say that Christ is?

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4. Who does your life reveal that Christ is?

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## **Section X**

### **He calleth for thee**

*“And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto Him.” (John 11:28-29 KJV)*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Jesus allowed Martha to speak her heart to Him. And after doing so she went about doing the will of her Father, Jesus, by telling Mary that Jesus had called for her. Upon hearing the words that Jesus was calling for her, Mary revealed once and for all her love and devotion for Christ. Immediately she quickly arose and came to Him.

1. What is the significance of Jesus allowing Martha to tell Him what was on her heart?

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2. What had Martha said to Jesus in the previous verse?

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3. What was the direct result of Martha verbalizing who Christ was and pouring out her heart to Jesus?

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4. Did Jesus remember Mary and care for her needs?

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5. What reaction did Mary have to the news that Jesus was calling for her?

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### **Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Do you know that Jesus is interested in hearing what is troubling you and weighing on your heart?

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2. When is the last time you poured your heart out to Jesus?

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3. Have you realized that Jesus is calling out for you?

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4. What difference has knowing Jesus loves you made in your life?

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## **Section XI**

### **Mary's faith is revealed**

*“Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met Him. The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying unto Him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.” (John 11:30-32 KJV)*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Mary comes to Jesus after He bids her to come. Others, watching the actions of Mary followed her, speculating that she was going to the grave and mourn. But instead, Mary was going to meet Jesus to worship Him. As soon as she came to where He was, she fell down and worshipped Him and stated clearly her confidence in Him. She let Him know, and each of us, that she knew Him so well that she knew that had He been there Lazarus would not have died. She knew the strength of His power.

1. Did Mary hesitate to come to Jesus?

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2. Where did the people that were watching Mary think she was going and what did they think she was going to do?

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3. What did Mary do when she saw Jesus?

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4. How do you think Mary's actions compared to what you would expect of someone who had just lost a loved one?

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5. What do Mary's actions say about her faith in Jesus Christ?

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6. What words did Mary say that revealed her faith in Jesus?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. When Jesus knocks on your heart's door and bids you come, or asks you to go, how quickly do you obey?

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2. When you come face to face with Jesus, what do you do?

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3. Do circumstances dictate your love and devotion to Jesus?

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4. What do your actions say about your faith in Jesus?

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## **Section XII**

### **Oh, how He loved him**

*“When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto Him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how He loved him!”*  
(John 11:33-36 KJV)

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Jesus was a man of like passions, just as we are, yet without sin. He was 100% God and 100% man. It is impossible for us to fully understand that, but here in this passage we get a glimpse into what that means. We are sitting on the edge of one of the greatest miracles Jesus performed; yet we see Him experiencing the emotions of an ordinary man. Here before us unfolds the heart of God, He weeps with those around Him for Lazarus. He was troubled in His spirit and reached out to the people to help them. He inquired of them where Lazarus was laid, a very human thought. He cried when they bid Him come see Lazarus, a very human response. He was demonstrating His amazing character and those around Him recognized that fact. Jesus was living out His deity and demonstrating His humanness.

1. What was Jesus’ response to Mary’s weeping?

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2. What emotion did Jesus display when they bid Him come see where Lazarus laid?

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3. What conclusions did the Jews come to by witnessing the actions of Jesus?

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4. How does Jesus demonstrate His deity and His humanness?

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### **Applying the Scriptures:**

1. How tender is your heart toward others?

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2. Do you recognize Jesus as 100% God and 100% man?

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3. Do you recognize the breadth and depth of His love for you?

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4. Explain the ways that God demonstrates His depth of love for you.

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5. What difference does it make to us that Jesus was God in human form?

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## **Section XIII**

### **The death of Lazarus is confirmed**

*“And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in Himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” (John 11:37-40 KJV)*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

The people witnessing this event knew the power of God. They knew the miracles that He had performed and wondered among themselves why Jesus had not kept Lazarus from dying. They were too short sighted to see that healing Lazarus would have been doing only the same as had already been done, but by raising the dead they were going to receive the greater blessing. Upon hearing the questions from the crowd, Jesus again began to groan in His spirit as He traveled to the grave where Lazarus laid. By the time Jesus had made it to the grave Lazarus was in a cave sealed with a stone and had already begun to rot. It had been four days since Lazarus had died. Now, Martha, like the others, knew this and just could not understand what Jesus was going to do. So, she reminded Him of the fact that Lazarus had been dead four days and that He stunk, so she could not see the point in

rolling the stone away. It was then that Jesus reminded Martha of the promise that He made her, “*Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?*” Earlier Jesus had explained to Martha that if only she would believe she would see the glory of God. Therefore, Jesus came to Lazarus’ tomb, established that Lazarus was dead, spoke of the necessity of faith and then made everyone aware that the Glory of God was just about to shine round about them all.

1. What knowledge of Jesus did the witnesses have?

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2. Did they doubt the power of Jesus to heal?

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3. What was Martha’s reaction to Christ’s request to remove the stone from the cave where Lazarus lay?

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4. What was promised Martha if she believed?

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5. Was Martha responding from her heart or her head?

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6. What does God require of us today to see the Glory of God?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Do you know the power of God?

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2. Are you looking at your situation with limited eyesight and from a nearsighted perspective?

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3. What stones in your life do you need to roll away so that you can have a fresh view of Jesus and feel the demonstration of His power in your life?

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4. Do you believe that Jesus still performs miracles today?

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5. Do you have the faith to see the Glory of God?

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## **Section XIV**

### **Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead**

*“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard me. And I knew that Thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent me. And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”* (John 11:41-44 KJV)

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

They took away the stone that had closed the tomb where Lazarus had laid. Facing the enormous task at hand, raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus looks to the heavens and began to speak to God. He began speaking to God by giving thanks to Him. He then declared His faith in God by pointing out the fact that He knew God heard Him. After thanking God and establishing His faith in God, Jesus made His request, not for Himself but for the glory of God and for the furtherance of the Gospel. Without hesitation, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, *“Lazarus, come forth.”* Jesus called Lazarus by name. He was specifically speaking to him. *“And he that was dead came forth.”* Death had no power over Jesus. With just the spoken word, Christ broke the chains of death. Lazarus was helpless, but the word spoken by Jesus loosed him. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead. Those

who witnessed this miracle had just seen the greatest miracle ever performed up until that time. Many had seen people healed, including Mary and Martha, but no one had seen someone raised from the dead. By waiting, Mary and Martha and all those around received the greater blessing.

1. What evidence do we have that Lazarus was truly dead and not sleeping?

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2. Whom did Jesus seek when He was facing a stressful situation?

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3. What were the three elements of Christ's prayer?

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4. What was Christ's purpose for raising Lazarus from the dead?

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5. What significance lays in the fact that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead as opposed to healing him prior to death?

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### **Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Where do you turn when you are faced with a difficult situation?

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2. What are the elements of your prayers?

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3. What is the purpose of your prayers?

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4. What situation are you facing that you need to wait upon the Lord for His answer?

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5. Do you need Christ to raise you from the dead (sin in your life, stagnant growth, melancholy or living in a rut)?

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## **Section XV**

### **Many believed**

*“Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him.” (John 11:45 KJV)*

#### **Understanding the Scriptures:**

Many of the people watching Mary’s life came to the saving knowledge of Christ through witnessing Him in her life. Jesus performed miracles for and through Mary, and everyone watching could see. Because of the life that Mary lived, quietly following Jesus, believing in Him and allowing Him to work through her, many believed on Him.

1. Why did many of the Jews believe on Jesus?

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2. What role did Mary play in the conversion of many Jews?

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3. What makes Jesus different than any other man that walked on the earth?

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**Applying the Scriptures:**

1. Who is watching your life?

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2. Who is Jesus?

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3. What does your life say about the power of Christ?

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4. What are you doing to convert others to a personal walk with Christ?

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5. What miracles has Jesus performed in your life?

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## **Closing**

It is my prayer that this study has been a blessing in your life. May you grow in His grace, mercy and love. May each of us walk away from this passage richer in knowledge, more motivated to serve Him and filled with more faith to wait upon Him. ***“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”*** (Isaiah 40:31).

-Kimberly Miller

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