

**THE WEEK OF
May 3rd, 2010**



**Jesus
Vs.
The Giant Despair
Part 3
John 11**

"Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" John 11:39-43

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is appropriate for us in this study titled "Jesus Vs. The Giant Despair". Not much can cause greater despair than death. The loss of Lazarus is a source of grief for those close to him, and even Jesus weeps for him. We read of Martha saying to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Many of us have expressed those same words of despair in our time of loss.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." The beauty of this story is that it doesn't end with the death of Lazarus, but rather it continues with the resurrection. Jesus, carrying the authority and power of His heavenly father, calls Lazarus to come out of his grave.

In verse 40, Jesus asks Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? Martha had just reminded Jesus that Lazarus had already been dead four days. Jesus reminds us that the glory of God is not contained by our earthly and humanly limitations. It's easy to think that something is a large task for God.

God's glory can shine even through death. There is hope for the believer of a tomorrow beyond the grave. One day we all who believe and follow Jesus will be resurrected and taken to spend eternity with Him. The sorrow of death is temporary for the believer. Eternity is real and when we lift our eyes up, as the Psalmist wrote, we will see Him, who our hope comes from.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Mon: Joshua 1:3-9 - "do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"

Tue: 1 Chronicles 28:20 - He will not leave you nor forsake you

Wed: Romans 8:15 - "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear"

Thu: Luke 12:22-34 - Consider the ravens...

Fri: John 11 - No despair in death - Jesus is the resurrection!

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What event has caused you to despair? What exactly was it about that event that made you feel that way?

2. How do we keep our perspective on the eternal rather than the temporal? How do we see the glory of God when we don't see miracles?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):