

International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: Jesus Shows His Humanity and Deity, John 11

One of the ways we know someone loves us is that they understand how we feel. Perhaps they listen quietly without interrupting. They do not scold or tell us to not feel a certain way. Jesus understood how others felt and knew their sorrow as his own. The following account of Jesus with his friends, Mary and Martha, is recorded in John 11. Lazarus, their brother had died, and the sisters were disappointed that Jesus hadn't healed him before he died. Assign people to read the different parts in the script. As you read the passage, note Jesus' emotions and plan.

Martha: to Jesus: Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies. And those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ (promised one), the Son of God (one who completely reflected who God is). I believe that you are the One who was supposed to come into the world.

Narrator: Mary reached the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she fell at his feet.

Mary: Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died.

Narrator: Jesus saw her crying. He saw that the Jews who had come along with her were crying also. His spirit became very sad, and he was troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?"

Crowd #1: Come and see, Lord.

Narrator: Jesus sobbed.

Crowd #1: See how much he loved him!"

Crowd #2: He opened the eyes of the blind man. Couldn't he have kept this man from dying?

Talk about unfamiliar words.

Name the main characters in the story and retell the story in your own words. Why do you think Mary and Martha were upset with Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus wept? How do you think Jesus feels when you suffer a loss?

How did Jesus describe himself in verse 25 and what was the promise he gave to Mary and Martha? What do you think it means?

Narrator: Once more Jesus felt very sad. He came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone in front of the entrance.

Jesus: Take away the stone.

Martha: But, Lord, by this time there is a bad smell. Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?

Narrator: They took away the stone.

Jesus, looking up: Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me. But I said this for the benefit of the people standing here. I said it so they will believe that you sent me.

Jesus, with a loud voice: Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of linen. A cloth was around his face.

Resurrection is when the soul and spirit of a person who has died, is reunited to his own body, not another body. Lazarus is an example of resurrection.

*How is this different from reincarnation?
Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What do you think this tells us about Jesus?*

Notice that Jesus did not heal Lazarus when he was sick, but he did raise him from the dead. What might this story teach us about Jesus, his compassion and plan?

Jesus is a person of compassion, as demonstrated by this story. Jesus also is a person of power. Just as he raised Lazarus from the dead, he himself rose from the dead and is able to help us. Consider this passage about Jesus in his current role.

¹⁵ We have a high priest (a person who is close to God) who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it. Hebrews 4.

Explain unknown words and phrases.

Restate these thoughts in your own words.

What do you like about this passage?

What would you like to remember?



Gough, Vincent van. The Raising of Lazarus (after Rembrandt.) May, 1890. Saint-Remy. Oil on canvas. 49x63 cm. Rijksmuseum. Vincent Van Gogh, Amsterdam