

The STORY - Week Twenty-Five

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April 2, 2017

Jesus, Revealed

JOHN 11:1-45

The response of faith to God's work in Christ is not a call to suspend our rationality or to refuse to use our minds. Faith is not believing just anything that comes along. John recognizes the difficulties created for a thinking person. Martha is not reprimanded for being so skeptical toward the end of the story even though earlier she had confessed Jesus as Lord, Christ and Son of God. But Christ's call is that Martha and others be open to what God will do even if for the moment they can't fit it within their accustomed ways of thinking and perception - Jirair Tashjian (2016).

When our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

The key to it all, now as then, is faith. Jesus is bringing God's new world to birth; but it doesn't happen automatically. It doesn't just sweep everyone along with it, willy-nilly. The key to sharing the new world is faith: believing in Jesus, trusting that He is God's Messiah, the One coming into the world, into our world, into our pain and sorrow and death - N. T. Wright (2004).

If Jesus needed to spend time praying and waiting, how much more will we.

Next week: Jesus - The Hour of Darkness

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Why didn't Jesus DO something?

What could have made Him delay?

This is not just about Lazarus.

This is Jesus' story too.

Jesus' actions incriminated Him with leaders.

Bethany: "House of the Poor"

Special place and people to Jesus.

John 11:35 Reveals God's heart.

He cries with the world. He cries with us.

Jesus thanks the Father for hearing Him.

He wanted to show people they should believe in Him.

Lazarus' body had not decayed.

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