**WELL, DO YOU?**

By Danny McGaughey

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In two weeks it will be Resurrection Sunday (Easter.) It seems like it was just the first of the year. We get reminders when we go to a store. Candy everywhere, Easter baskets on the shelves, and we see notices from ministries about all the activities for that special day. Really, we celebrate His resurrection every Sunday at communion time.

When you read all four accounts of Jesus’ life leading up to His crucifixion there is a lot going on. One of the most significant events has to do with a man by the name of Lazarus. Probably you are familiar with Lazarus. If so, you know he is the brother of Mary and Maratha. “Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.” (Luke 10:38) This is where their friendship began.

Their friendship began with being taught by Jesus. “And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:39-42)

People have not changed. There are still way too many Marthas in the world, distracted by all the things the world puts in the way of choosing to have a relationship with Jesus. Peer pressure is often a tool Satan uses to lead people away from a true, sold-out relationship with Jesus. People chose to conform rather than be different from the world. How many times have people said they’re too busy to study their Bible or they have to go here instead of attending church on the Lord’s day?

Folks, we have a textbook to study and live by. That book is the Bible. Just like school, there is going to be a test of all we have learned and put into practice. That test will come when we die and stand at the judgement. “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27) We get a grade of H. It is either Heaven, well done My faithful servant, or it is Hell, depart from Me for I never knew you. Game over; eternity ahead.

Back to Lazarus. He becomes very sick. The sisters know that Jesus can heal their brother, so they send for Him. “Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” (John 11:1-3) Now we find that Lazarus’ death was an important event in Jesus’ life. “But when Jesus heard it, He said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (John 11:4) The Jews are about to see Jesus’ power one more time. Jesus didn’t jump up and run to Lazarus’ house. He waited for two days before He and the disciples left for Lazarus’ home.

The disciples remind Jesus that to go back to Judea would be a certain death. Jesus tells them to walk in the light of the world no matter what they face ahead. Then Jesus tells them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” The disciples said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” So, Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.” (John 11:11-16)

Now Jesus and the disciples are at Lazarus’ home. “Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” Do you believe as Martha did?

“Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So, they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent me.” When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

I suggest to you that this event pushed the Pharisees over the edge. Now they are more determined to kill Jesus, now they are plotting to kill Lazarus too. You see, Lazarus was a walking, talking example of Jesus as the Messiah. Now Lazarus was a reminder to all of Jesus’ power, and now Lazarus’ life is in danger. “When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. So, the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.” John 12:8-11) “So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this Man performs many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” (John 11:47-48)

“They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That He will not come to the feast at all?” Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest Him.” (John 11:56-57)

Out of all these verses we have used, I believe these are extremely important. “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” Well, do you? Have a blessed week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAcRxNbUThs>