

WILL GOD STILL LOVE ME EVEN IF... Q

I'M SAD

PRECEPT

JOHN 11:1-44

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days...

(READ THE REST OF THE VERSES)

PROMISE

Throughout the several-day-long story of Lazarus dying and Jesus returning to heal him, we can see Jesus experiencing emotions similar to those that many of us have experienced and will experience. John says Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters (vv. 3, 5). He knew Lazarus had died without anyone telling Him, and He wanted to do something about it (v. 11). He "was deeply moved" when He saw the sadness people were feeling (v. 33), wept with them (v. 35), and was "deeply moved again" (v. 38).

JESUS LOVES US, THAT'S WHY HE ALLOWS SICKNESS. Many times, Jesus uses our sickness to call our attention. When we experience challenges because of our sickness, we call to Him and rely on Him more, thus making us more dependent on Him. Regardless of our physical condition, the truth remains that Jesus loves us. He can allow sicknesses to express His love for us or even save us from greater harm.

JESUS LOVES US, THAT'S WHY HE MAKES US WAIT. Even when God seems delayed in our own perspective, He is never late, He is always on time. Out of His love for us, He makes us wait for our own good. When Martha ran out to Jesus and expressed her worries, Jesus cared for her as well as to Mary and the Jews who followed her.

JESUS LOVES US, THAT'S WHY HE IS TESTING OUR FAITH. There are times that things does not make sense for us, but this opens up an opportunity for us to trust God when we don't understand what's going on. When Lazarus was deemed dead and was already in the tomb for four days (v. 17), Martha especially did not understand why Jesus came to Bethany after four days. She told Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." (v. 21). We may not comprehend why God allows for certain things to happen to us but we can be assured that He is always in control and wants the best for us.

JESUS LOVES US, THAT'S WHY HE LISTENS TO OUR COMPLAINTS. Naturally, we become sad when our expectations are not met. Jesus welcomes our honest feelings and hears our frustrations, even our complaints. After we voice out your emotions and process our sadness, let us allow God to comfort us and change our hearts. Verse 22 says, "Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

JESUS LOVES US; HE WANTS US TO DO OUR PART. God's sovereignty does not remove human responsibility. To experience the power of God, we need to "remove the stone" in our life, just as how Jesus instructed the people to remove the stone of Lazarus' tomb.

JESUS LOVES US; HE IS PRAYING FOR US IN MOMENTS OF OUR SADNESS. Whatever it is that's causing our sadness today, Jesus can take it all away. Sadness is a part of life, certainly, there are things in life that are tough to handle. In our worries, let us welcome God's lovingkindness and mercy that is always available for all of us.

PRACTICE

1. Lazarus' Death. Mary and Martha responded differently to Jesus' visitation of Lazarus' death. With whom do you identify more? Why?

2. God is Near. Have you experienced Jesus's nearness and concern when it comes to the things that make you sad or worried? How?

PRAYER

I. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

II. South Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the South groups: Drapeza & Tablan.

III. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

IV. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, and Gamboa.

V. Young Couples Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples groups: Oliveros, Imperial, & Gumasing.

VI. Young Once Life Connections

- Pray for our coordinators Rene & Lita Alipao as they continue to lead this group.

VII. Circles (Youth & Singles)

- Pray that we will be able to reach out to the youth and singles of our city for God's glory.