

Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

November 3, 2024: All Saint's Day Saints Triumphant: Live Like You'll Live Forever

John 11:32-44

³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵Jesus wept.

³⁶Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- 1. Which beloved saint comes to your mind as we celebrate Saints Triumphant? How long has it been since he/she died?
- 2. It helps to read the first 32 verses of the chapter to get the full story. When Mary and Martha send word to Jesus that Lazarus is sick, he waits around two more days. How did they react? How would you have reacted to his timing?
- 3. Why was Jesus "glad" he wasn't there [with Lazarus]? See John 11:4,15).
- 4. Losing a loved one like Mary and Martha did, especially earlier than we expected, is a highly painful and emotional experience. How did Jesus show Mary and Martha how much he cared about them all?
- 5. For what reasons was Jesus deeply moved and troubled when he arrived at grave of Lazarus?
- 6. How will remembering what happened with Jesus' timing in this story help you the next time you or your loved one is sick or dying?
- 7. Jesus once told the story of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus, (Luke 16:19-32--we're not sure if it's a parable or a real story). The rich man goes to hell. Lazarus goes to heaven. The rich man begs for Lazarus to be sent back to warn his brothers to repent. The punch line is: "They will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." What do these two stories have to do with each other?
- 8. In verse 4, Jesus promised, "This sickness will not end in death." How does this promise become true for every believer? How does this change the way we grieve?