

Lent 2017 Mary & Martha Homegroup Study

How does our culture tend to treat suffering & death? What about us, as Christians, what are your attitudes and emotions towards it?

Read John 11:1-16

in vs 3 the sisters sent word to Jesus, how do we 'send word' to Jesus and what are our expectations after sent the word to Him?

What indications are there in this passage that Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus? What does that tell us about the relationship between God's love for people and whether or not their lives contain trouble and hardships?

Read John 11:17-37

From Jesus' discussion with Martha (vv 20-27), what vital revelation about Himself is Jesus teaching through this miracle?

vv 20-27 show that Martha believed that God offers eternal life through Jesus, but vv 39-42 show that she didn't understand that Jesus offers new life *now* to the believer until He had raised Lazarus. How does this show that it was more loving for Jesus to wait for Lazarus to die even though this would cause Mary and Martha great grief for a short time?

In vs 32 Mary's comment to Jesus is identical to Martha's in vs 21 but Jesus' reply and actions are completely different – why? And what does it tell us about how Jesus deals with different people in the same circumstances?

Read John 11:38-44

Jesus gave Lazarus new life, but (v 44) he was still seriously restricted by his 'stinky' grave-clothes until others removed them for him. Steve pointed out that this was an illustration of the fact that Christians, although born again, still have things of our old dead-in-sin life clinging to us – which will seriously hamper our ability to live our new life to the full unless they are removed.

Read Colossians 3:1-17, which picks up on this illustration – How can we have our 'grave-clothes' removed, and help others remove theirs?