



Walking **Alone**



John 11

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, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

8 “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

¹² His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for **four days**. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and **many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them** in the loss of their brother.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, **she went out to meet him**, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “**if you had been here**, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “**and is asking for you.**” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When 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.”

³³ When 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.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

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

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

38 Jesus, **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.”

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

41 So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I 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.**”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 **The 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.”**

Jesus loves Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. *And* He waits two days before going to their aid. Can these both be true? How?

John 11:38:

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

John 20:20

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

“It is death that is the object of his wrath, and behind death him who has the power of death...

Tears of sympathy may fill his eyes but this is incidental. His soul is held by rage: and he advances to the tomb, in Calvin’s words, ‘as a champion who prepares for conflict.’”

B. B. WARFIELD

32b “Lord, **if you had been here**, my brother would not have died.”

33 When 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.

35 Jesus wept.

The death and burial of Jesus Christ
is the entry of the Light into darkness.

For Lazarus to be raised from the dead, Jesus would need to give His life (John 11:53). For us to be raised from the dead—in all forms—Jesus gave His life.

**Jesus will confront every bit of
death and sickness in our lives.**

Jesus will confront every bit of
death and sickness in our lives.

But rarely in our time.

Jesus loves Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. *And* He waits two days before going to their aid. Can these both be true? How?

**God is not the means of our glory;
our lives are the context for His glory.**



DR. ALEXIS REDDING
on what Gen Z needs to hear from their elders

“Forgetting the messy middle — the hard, confusing parts of our experiences — isn't a problem in itself. It becomes an issue when we leave out the parts young people most need to hear. Each time we tell these incomplete stories, we risk building barriers, leaving them thinking: I guess I'm the only one struggling. Everyone else had it figured out.”

-ALEXIS REDDING

What do I do in the “messy middle” of the story when it feels, like Mary, that I’m waiting for God’s invitation?

Keep talking.

“Jesus...cannot be pressured to intervene
until He determines that the time is right.”

ANDREAS KÖSTENBERGER



**What do I do in the “messy middle”
when it feels, like Martha, like I’m
walking alone?**

Keep walking.

**Martha is a prime example of faith.
Holding tight to Jesus even when He
is not granting what we want.**

“God walks ‘slowly’ because He is love. If He is not love He would move much faster. Love has its speed... It is a different kind of speed from the technological speed to which we are accustomed. It is ‘slow’ and yet it is lord over all the other speeds since it is the speed of love. It goes on in the depths of our life whether we notice it or not...”

KOSUKE KOYAMA

Three Mile an Hour God

**What do I do in the “messy middle”
when it feels, like Lazarus, like the
grave clothes are still on me?**

Keep taking off the grave clothes.

The grave clothes and face covering
don't need to be taken off Christ.

He takes them off us.

What grave clothes need to
come off us?