

MEET ME IN BETHANY

March 4, 2018 John 11:1-44 by Bob Branch
Finding Jesus, Finding Life part 33

MAIN IDEA: At Bethany, we encounter Jesus *and* death, Jesus *and* timing, Jesus in our pain *and* in every impossible situation—and as we encounter him, we are changed.

“Lord, the one you love is sick.”

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days... ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

1. Meet me, find me in the difficult TIMING and WAITING in life. Nothing catches me by surprise—I’m always on time—my time.

²³ Jesus said, “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?”

2. Meet me in all your thoughts and fears about DEATH and what comes next. In me, death is defeated—the future resurrection has come now—in me. I bring life that goes beyond your last breath!

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

³² “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!”

3. Meet me in your HELPLESSNESS, grief and pain. Let me in. Let my deep love and affection pour into you.

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

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

4. Meet me and trust me and you will SEE MY GLORY—even in the midst of your struggles, brokenness & pain.

⁴³ “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out...

5. Meet me in the IMPOSSIBLE situations and difficulties of life. I have authority over the Big-D—Death, so nothing is too difficult for me.

- Invite Jesus in...
- Offer your anxieties up to him... (JST).
- Since Jesus’ glory is revealed in our weakness and pain—change perspective.