



Part 2: Sorrow

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A Story of Sorrow John 11:1-44

Jesus was well acquainted with sorrow.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with: pain (NIV), grief (ESV), sorrows (KJV). (Isaiah 53:3)

No one can escape sorrow, but Jesus wants to meet us in the midst of sorrow.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. – 2 Corinthians 7:10

Some of us respond to grief inwardly; some of us respond outwardly. Jesus invites us to respond upward.

John 11:17-21

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.

John 11:23-26

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 “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.”

In the midst of grief, Jesus confirms his divinity.

In the midst of grief, Jesus shows his humanity.

Jesus wept. – John 11:35

John 11:36-44

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.

Will your grief lead to death or life?

In this world, you will have trouble.

But take heart, Jesus says, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

A Humble Declaration

1. In times of sorrow, I will trust that Jesus loves me.

My circumstance was not created by a lack of God's love, but as a result of living in a broken, sinful world.

2. In times of sorrow, I will believe that God is in control.

I am in his kingdom, living under his rule and reign. Today, as every day, God is supreme.

3. In times of sorrow, I will grieve with others.

I was not created to be isolated or alone, and I will surround myself with others who will look to Jesus and grieve with me.

4. In times of sorrow, I will believe that Jesus is with me.

Just as my heart is broken, so is Jesus' heart broken over death, loss, and sin. Jesus does not leave me times of sorrow. He is very near.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Growing up, how did your family deal with grief or loss?
- 2) How old were you the first time you experienced the loss of a friend or family member? What do you remember from that experience?
- 3) Read John 11:17-35. What do you appreciate most about how Jesus relates to Mary and Martha?
- 4) Read the four declaration statements. Which statement is most difficult for you to make?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and this week?

OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.