

NOT FORGOTTEN

Opening: St. Patrick's Day

How do you know an Irishman thinks a joke is funny? He's Dublin over with laughter!

How did the Irish Jig get started? Too much to drink and not enough restrooms!

Intro: Its Palm Sunday

Text: [John 11](#)

How many of you know that God's ways of doing things are very different from our ways?

[Isaiah 55:8](#) (NLT) "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

Jesus – is preaching in the villages of Perea, east of the Jordan River -when what seemed like *bad news* reached him about his friend Lazarus – message that Lazarus is gravely ill

- If you've ever been disappointed by someone you admire and look up to ... raise your hand?
- If you've ever disappointed someone who admired you ... raise your hand

I don't like disappointing the people I care about and who care about me!

I think you're the same way ... Because It cuts both ways when we do!

This is the situation that Jesus faced ... for the people He loved and who in return loved and admire him, Lazarus, Mary and Martha

you hate to let people like that down

Read [John 11: 1-8](#),

¹A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. ³So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your **dear** friend is **very** sick."

⁴But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." ⁵So **although** Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶he stayed where he was for the next two days. ⁷Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

Two sisters send an urgent message to Jesus ...Your **dear** friend is **very** sick ... (Come at once)

Although ... what a huge word – *although* Jesus loved these people ... He intentionally stayed in Perea

- He knew Lazarus would die
- He knew the pain this would cause to Martha and Mary
- They are counting on Him to do what He had always done ... save the day!

Jesus didn't delay to be cruel –He knew there was **a bigger plan and it involved Lazarus.**

When we pray for God's help how often do we pray thy will be done? Isn't that in the Prayer Jesus taught the disciples in response to their question ... Teach us how to pray?

Doing the right thing is can be painful when it comes to the people we care about – it takes courage

★ God always does right for us ... **Romans 8:28** *For we know all things work together for good*

Jesus intentionally stays away –looks like he's deserted his friend and his sisters in their time of need

But this decision will cause thousands to believe in God - and directly impact the day that we call Palm Sunday –the triumphant entry into Jerusalem ... where Jesus is publicly hailed for the first time as the Messiah

Read **John 11:11-15**

¹¹ Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up." ¹² The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" ¹³ They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

¹⁴ So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

The disciples think Lazarus is actually sleeping ... So Jesus gets literal –**Lazarus is dead!!!!**

To make things sound even worse he adds – For your sakes I'm **glad** that I wasn't there because now you're going to have greater reasons to believe.

When Jesus finally arrives Lazarus has been dead four days

John 11: 17- 19

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

- Jesus waited two days

- Traveled a day or more to Bethany
- Lazarus wasn't just dead – he was good and dead ... ripe!

Wizard of Oz – Munchkin coroner song about Wicked Witch of the West

She's not only merely dead she's really quite sincerely dead!
Lazarus was sincerely – unquestionably dead!

When Martha gets word that Jesus is coming she doesn't wait - she goes out to meet Him

Martha is a giving person, generous to a fault, but a take control personality – If there's a job to be done just give it to Martha and stand back, Anita, my mother ... was a Martha

Martha doesn't mince words, not even with Jesus... **Lord, if you had only been here** – Lazarus would still be alive ... **JESUS YOU LET HIM DIE!** Yet even overcome with disappointment and sorrow she confesses absolute confidence in Jesus

John 11: 20-27

²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." Now Jesus opens the door to new growth in faith for Martha ... He wanted her faith to grow ²⁵ Jesus told her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

How could Martha make such a claim after what she saw as complete disregard by Jesus?

She could do it because of her past relationship with Jesus –She knew He could be trusted; our past experiences with Jesus should work the same ...

Stepping stones of faith – building blocks of faith

Graveyard in Boston: Prominent American heroes Gravestones of

John Hancock, Samuel Adams signers of the Declaration of Independence a few feet over is the Marker of **Paul Revere** - Yet no one know for sure where those bodies lie because the markers have

been moved many times in maintaining the garden - There are **2,300 markers but over 5,000 graves** It might be thought that these people lost and forgotten in death.

However, God never forgets us he values each of us as unique – even in our darkest hour, we can rest in the knowledge that we are never alone, God is with us.

“God is Never More Near than when he seems far away” Patrick Morley *How God Makes Men*

John 11: 32-44

³² When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a **deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.** ³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked them. They told him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Then Jesus wept. ³⁶ The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!” ³⁷ But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸ **Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb**, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them.

Jesus had that Clint Eastwood angry, look, the Daniel Craig 007, now you’re gonna get it look – He is about to do battle with the power of death.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.” ⁴⁰ Jesus responded, **“Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”**

⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

Can you see the bigger picture? Lazarus was dead and buried ... not anymore that kind of thing gets around fast and it didcan you imagine if they would have had Facebook back then!!!

Six days before the Passover Jesus will return to the town of Bethany the home of Lazarus

John 12: 9-13 Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday)

⁹ When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ **for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.** ¹² The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³ took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They

shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"

What about your friendship with God?

Where is it now? Are you disappointed in Him or are you concerned that He might be disappointed in you?

You are deeply loved. God always has you in mind, its why He sent His Son to suffer and die for you. He values above all other possessions – to because of perfect or obedient you are but because you are made in His image – He is waiting for you to open your heart and know Him better.