

## **John 11b 11:28 –57**

28-29 Someday He'll be here asking for us all and we will fly away to meet Him!  
10:3 Did Mary not know, or was she waiting for His invitation?

30-31 Martha must have took her aside so that others would not hear, giving Mary some time alone with Him. Her haste caused the crowd to suspect she was going to the tomb to weep and they all jumped up to follow. The Jews believed the louder and flamboyant the wailing, the more respect was being shown to the deceased. You can imagine the scene.

32 The exact same wording as 21. Either this is a coincidence or the sisters had been voicing their complaint together. In grief, we often wonder why God did not act. He can handle your questioning. He grieves with you, but He still knows what is best and is sovereign over all. Psalm 31:15

33 "Moved in spirit" is a translation of the Greek word "embrimasthai". KJV says "troubled in spirit". The word is sometimes translated to include anger, to severely give a command. Literally it is used for the snorting of a horse. It is quite possible that the Greek reader would understand this to mean Jesus' uncontrollable sob. You have probably experienced this when you tried not cry and suddenly a gulp of air causes a snorting sound similar to that of a horse. It is from an overwhelming emotion. Jesus was not at all like the Greek gods that had no emotions. He feels more deeply than man. We are made in His image.

34-35 They supposed He was going to weep at the tomb. Isaiah 63:9; Luke 19:41; Hebrews 4:15 Though we had Jesus' great sob, this word for weeping here is the silent shedding of tears. The weeping over Jerusalem was like the audible weeping of a child. Jesus felt the pain of those around him, especially Mary. How it must grieve Him who knows that all the pain of death is the result of the refusal to obey the Father clear back in the Garden.

36-37 He knew Lazarus would be raised. He was weeping for their pain. How often we misunderstand Jesus. We do so because we try to interpret His actions as if it were us in His place. He is not like sinful man. Couldn't He – if He only would have... We express the same thoughts. He delays answering so that the Father might be glorified.

38 We encounter the word again, the snorting of a horse. This is the typical Jewish burial for the upper class. A cave was hewn into the limestone. Only one family used a tomb at great cost. A round rock would seal the entrance so that the stench would not come out and the rodents would not get in. After enough time had passed, the family would put the bones in a hewn box called an ossuary.

39 Practical Martha may have thought Jesus wanted to see Lazarus' face one last time. She is warning Jesus that it has been long enough for decomposition to set in.

40 Jesus reminds her of His statement and the faith she expressed. Sometimes we need to be reminded. Look back at verse 4. Martha is about see that Jesus is indeed the resurrection and the life!

41-42 Apparently Jesus had already had a conversation with the Father and knew what was to happen. Remember He told the disciples that this would not end in death? He is praying out loud for the sake of those listening, so that they will know He is sent from God.

43-44 If He had not used his specific name, every dead person would have risen. He needs to but speak the word. What a sight! "Take off those wrappings of cloth and let him go!" Sometimes we are as dead as Lazarus in sin. It causes our spiritual life to decay. We desire to be free, but the grave clothes, those things of death we have clothed ourselves in, are keeping us from being freed. We need the helping hand of friends' accountability to get out of that lifestyle or break that habit that enslaves us.

Now Martha and Mary know Jesus is more than a teacher, He is Resurrection and He is Life. Why did the other Gospel writers not include this story? It is a mystery. There is a lot of speculation. There is no doubt in my mind that it is true. To have circulated such a wild fabrication even at the late date of the writing of this last gospel would have cast a shadow of doubt on the entire message. Remember some folks that were with Jesus were still alive.

45 It would have made me a believer! 2:23 To see something like that and not believe would mean your heart was pretty hardened. This is the set up for the Triumphal Entry.

46 This does not mean that they did not believe, but may be that they were trying to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah. Luke 16:30 Jesus said people would not repent even if someone did rise from death.

47 -52 Their concern is for their power and positions. Caiaphas unwittingly uttered the truth of the matter. Jesus was about to die for the sins of the world so that the world would not perish. Their temple and positions would be taken anyway in just 40 years. What they feared came upon them.

53-57 They have to stop Him or they will lose what they live for. Truth doesn't matter to them. They have put out a death warrant on Jesus. Jesus fled up into the wilderness of Ephraim. He most likely returns to the other side of Jordan and then returns via the Jericho road. The Passover is at hand. The priests have spies watching for Him. Jesus is coming, but as the sacrificial Lamb.