

Fasting: Tuesday

HOPE IN FAITH: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THOSE THAT BELIEVE

Scripture: John 11:1-43

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "**This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.**" 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, **he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.** 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "**Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.**" 12 The disciples said to him, "**Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.**" 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "**Lazarus has died,** 15 and **for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.** But let us go to him." 16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been **in the tomb four days.** 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**" 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" 24 Martha said to him, "**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.**" 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever **believes in me,** though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me **shall never die.** Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." 28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**" 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So 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 also have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The definition of HOPE, is the expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. The definition of FAITH is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrew 11:1). We need to have hope in faith. Another way to say that is , we need to have an expectation that God is in control and be convicted that God always has our best interest in mind even if we cant see the outcome or the outcome is different than what we thought. With that as the foundation can we ever say that "someone has died before their time?" In John 11 we see Jesus explaining this concept to the disciples and Martha and Mary . All struggling to comprehend what Jesus was trying to convey. Martha goes straight to the scriptures and thanks Jesus for consoling her by reminding her that "he [Lazarus] will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." However that's not what He was doing. Then Mary comes and says the same thing and Jesus sees her Faith but the lack of hope. So Jesus provides everyone the hope that they should have in their Faith. "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So where are you at today? Do you expect God to move on your behalf? Do you have the conviction that God desires the best for you? Then when we pray our prayers should not be hopeless words being said into the empty air. Our words should come with a conviction and power behind them that shouts all will see the Glory of God. Pray bold prayers! Listen to the Lord and then speak what He is saying and have hope in your faith.

DAILY PRAYER:

Jehovah Rapha, God our Healer; we praise you for the wonderful works you have done! You heal hearts, minds, wounds, diseases, marriages, relationships. We believe and we ask for you to increase our Faith as we pray for healing today! We also pray for those who have yet to believe (pray for them by name); those who do not yet know you and your Son and the power of Your Spirit. We pray for the faith to move mountains, for blind eyes to be able to see, for deaf ears to be able to hear, for the lame to be able to walk, and for ALL things to be done according to your will. May your kingdom come and your will be done HERE, as it is in heaven. Open the eyes of the hearts of those whose hearts are hard and stubborn. Let them hear your voice, your Word, and your truth. May we co labor with you in declaring the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life available through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.