

5th Sunday of Lent

- Ever pray and get NOTHING – not yes, not no – nothing!
 - Mary and Martha loved Lazarus AND Jesus loved Lazarus
 - When Lazarus was sick – they sent for Jesus
 - When WE have problems – we pray – we send for Jesus
- Jesus gets their message – and doesn't respond – not yes, not no, nothing
- For 2 days, nothing – and Lazarus dies – they have funeral, burial, its over (he waits) & no Jesus (in tomb 4 days)

NB

After calling for Jesus & after waiting for Jesus – they still has faith. Martha says:

“Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died”

“But even now I know whatever you ask of God He will give you”

JC → “he will rise”

“I believe he will rise, on the last day”

- SHE HAS FAITH – and they call Mary – she expresses the same Martha faith
 - “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died”
 - Jesus goes to the tomb – He weeps with them
 - They rolled away the stone
- What they wanted – was Jesus to heal Lazarus WANT vs
- What they needed was the reality of the resurrection NEED in our prayer
- Resurrection is not just the external reality of the bodily resurrection.
 - Resurrection is also an internal reality
 - What part of our lives have we buried?
 - We bury our pain – we bury it deep – its safe there, we are vulnerable
 - *Do we have the faith to reveal our brokenness to Jesus*
 - Our pain, our failures, our sin, our needs, OUR DEAD SPOTS
 - And let Jesus touch them, and restore them to new life

Jesus comes to the tomb we have created

And He calls OUR name – He calls US to come out

But we have to roll away the stone

Martha said, in faith, “I know he will rise on the last day”

We say, “I know that we will rise on the last day”

Jesus says “WHY WAIT!” “Come forth today to new life”

Salvation doesn't have to wait until we go to heaven.

Salvation is about today.

The Kingdom of God is today. Forgiveness is TODAY. Redemption is TODAY

Jesus called out Lazarus and He calls us too.

It's time for us to roll away the stone and be re-born