

Funeral – (John 11: 17)

So – Lazarus gets sick & Mary and Martha send Jesus a note – “Master, the one You love is ill”
They were women of faith – they were friends with Jesus – they’d seen the miracles.
Jesus had been to their house for dinner –
They sat around the kitchen table and Jesus taught them

Alot like dinner at my father's house
My father loved to cook – he was a lot like Martha –
“Jesus is coming peel the potatoes, make more bread, is the lamb in the oven . . .”
He would have oysters, clams casino, a ham AND a chicken, peach melba ...
Even in his dementia “All I want to do is cook a chicken” “Can't I get a good steak”
My favorite memory – Ginni comes to dinner
A big roast ham – are you done? EAT have some more – then again
I brought Ginni home, “How was it, what did you have?” YOU ATE HAM!
Just like Jesus teaching over dinner – We heard stories:
5 pounds of bananas to get into the navy
USS Saratoga – Riding elephants to build an airstrip in India – Kamakazis at Iwo Jima

Mary and Martha shared dinner with Jesus, and he sat at table and taught them -
So when Laz gets sick they send for Jesus & Mary and Martha wait – and wait –
Lazarus gets worse – and they wait – nothing (not a note, not a message – nothing)
Have you ever had that happen?
You sit down to pray – you tell God what you want – and nothing!
Why? When this happens, what is God doing?

Imagine Mary and Martha (Where is HE?) (Doesn't He care?) (Why?)
And Lazarus dies – they have a funeral – they bury him – AND STILL NO JESUS

Imagine Mary and Martha – sitting in the house, crying – and the word comes – Jesus is here.
Martha runs out to meet Him – “If you had been here my brother would not have died”
Jesus says “I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will never die”
“Do you believe this?” DO WE BELIEVE THIS?

What did they **want** from Jesus? HEALING
What did they **need** from Jesus? RESURRECTION

I know a woman in the US who has Multiple Sclerosis – wheelchair bound, crippled.
She wrote a book, tapping out one letter at a time on a typewriter
“To Touch the Hem of His Garment” (Based on story of woman who believed if she could touch-)
In this book she says that there are 4 different types of healing:
(1) Physical Healing (2) Psychological Healing (3) Spiritual Healing
BUT the ultimate healing is (4) Death – Death WITH JESUS.
Because to die with Jesus results in Resurrection

Listen:

In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity.

My body is not made to last forever - one day I'll die & that'll be the end of my body
But not the end of me

I may live to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity.

This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal.

God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

We were made by God and for God, and Death has no hold on us Death was defeated on Calvary

Death is defeated in Chelmsford, in Methuen, Dracut, Norwood, in Texas and even NY

Resurrection is our Destiny

We will rise up with Jesus on the last day – and my father will be leading the way