

A SERIES OF ~~UN~~FORTUNATE EVENTS ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

...we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31 (ESV)

- What we believe about Jesus defines our life in Jesus.

We need to be reminded:

- God is God of this moment in your life.
- God still does miracles.
- God wants to do a miracle in your life.

You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate your awesome power. Psalm 77:14 (TLB)
Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
John 11:1 (NIV)

- Every miracle begins with a problem.

(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." John 11:2-3

We need to remember:

- God is moved by His love for you, not how much you love Him.

If we are unfaithful, he (God) remains faithful... 2 Timothy 2:13 (NLT)

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." John 11:4 (NIV)

- God has a purpose for your pain.

Our pain is to be the conduit to experience His life.

If your heart is broken you'll find God right there.. Psalm 34:18(MSG)

A lesson to learn:

- God wants to restore life in us.

The hurt Martha and Mary are carrying:

- They had lost someone they loved.
- They are disappointed with God's timing.

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days... John 11:5-6(NIV)

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. John 11:17 (NIV)

When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. John 11:17 (MSG)

Disappointment can happen because:

- We don't understand how God works.

How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? Romans 11:33-34 (NLT)

- We don't accept what God allows.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. John 11:21 (NLT)

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life--life in all its fullness. John 10:10 (GNT)

How to experience Life:

- Accept who Jesus is.

Martha knew Jesus was the Christ.

(Martha said) I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. (John 11:27)

Lord, Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask. John 11:21-22

- Accept that Jesus cares about you.

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved[a] in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. John 11:33-35 (ESV)

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3 (ESV)

- Accept his invitation to new life.

...Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" 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!" John 11:43-44 (NLT)

Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!" John 11:43-44 (NLT)

We can't live a new life wrapped in the things that supported our old life.

...clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 13:14 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How are you doing in this pandemic? How is your attitude towards leaders? How are you doing spiritually?
- Does it increase your faith when you see that God is moved to act on our behalf due to his love for us rather than our love for him?
- What does it mean that our pain is the conduit to experience new life in Jesus?
- Have you ever wrestled with the disappointment of God's timing and not understanding how God works? What did you do to maintain your faith, though you didn't understand?
- What does it mean to accept that Jesus is the Christ?
- Are you convinced that Jesus cares about you? Have you experienced God stepping into your sorrow?
- What does it mean to accept Jesus' invitation to a new life? How do we do this everyday?
- Why can't we experience new life wrapped in the things that supported our old life?

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