Notes:

THE GRIEF THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

December 19, 2021 Pastor Augie Iadicicco



As joyful as the holiday season is supposed to be, for some, this time of year brings grief, especially if they have recently lost a loved one. Jesus too knows the pain of loss. He weeps with you in your loss. But He can also overcome your loss with His promise of everlasting life.

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick." 6 So when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days, 7 and then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." – John 11:1, 3, 6-7

On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. – John 11:17-19

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept. – John 11:32-35

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." – John 11:25-27

My Next Step(s):

- I recognize that if I am grieving I need the help of others.
- $\,\circ\,$ If I am not grieving, I will seek to love and understand those who are.
- $\,\circ\,$ I will reach out in a non-intrusive way.
- $\,\circ\,$ I will take my grief to the foot of the cross, and find hope in the resurrection.

Memory Verse: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. - Romans 12:18 (NIV)

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)





A broken relationship

A broken relationship A painful memory

A broken relationship A painful memory The loss of a loved one

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick." ⁶ So when He heard that Lazarus was sick, <u>He stayed where He was two more</u> days, ⁷ and then He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

JOHN 11:1, 3, 6-7

¹⁷ On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and <u>many Jews</u> <u>had come to Martha and Mary to comfort</u> <u>them</u> in the loss of their brother.

JOHN 11:17-19

Let a close friend find out what they need.

Let a close friend find out what they need. Reach out in a non-intrusive way.

Let a close friend find out what they need. Reach out in a non-intrusive way. Remember to remember.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

JOHN 11:32

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JOHN 11:32

"Honesty is the best policy."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

JOHN 11:33-35

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

JOHN 11:33-35



Griefis painful.

"The death of a beloved is an amputation."



C.S. Lewis – <u>A Grief Observed</u>



Grief is disorienting.



Grief needs Jesus.

²⁵ Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

JOHN 11:25-27

"<u>This sickness will not end in death</u>. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

JOHN 11:4

"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that <u>God's Son may be</u> <u>glorified through it</u>."

JOHN 11:4

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ '<u>He will wipe every tear from</u> their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

REVELATION 21:3-4

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REVELATION 21:4