

## THE GRIEF THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

December 19, 2021

Pastor Augie Iadicicco



Notes:

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.
- If I am not grieving, I will seek to love and understand those who are.
- I will reach out in a non-intrusive way.
- 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)

*(continues on back)*

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