

Lord of the Grave

John 11:1-6, 17, 32-45

“No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.”

—C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

“Scientists have found that grief, like fear, is a stress reaction, attended by deep physiological changes: Cortisol Levels (stress) increase, Sleep patterns are disrupted, The immune system is weakened, and Mourners may experience loss of appetite, palpitations, even hallucinations.”

—Good Grief, The New Yorker

(v.3) “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

(v.21) “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

Pitfalls we get stuck in when dealing with pain:

- Isolation
- Self Absorption
- Shame and Condemnation
- Anger
- Being Complicit with our Affliction

—Simone Weil

Jesus longs to raise your body and your belief to new life.

(v.14-15) "Lazarus has died. 15 I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him."

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John 11:22-27

23 “Your brother will rise again,” Jesus told her.

24 Martha said, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?”

“I have a lot of beliefs... And I live by none of them. That’s just the way I am. They’re just my beliefs. I just like believing them – I like that part. They’re my little believies. They make me feel good about who I am. But if they get in the way of a thing I want, [of course] I...do that.”

—Louis C.K.

(v.27) “Yes, Lord,” she told Him, “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.”

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## The Tears (v.32-41)

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and told Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!” 33 When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, He was angry in His spirit and deeply moved. 34 “Where have you put him?” He asked. “Lord,” they told Him, “come and see.” 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

(v.35) Jesus wept.

“I don’t think God has provided a watertight argument, what God has provided you and me is a watertight person—with no holes in him.”

—Dick Lucas

## The Tomb (v.38-45)

Then Jesus, angry in Himself again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 “Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told Him, “Lord, he’s already decaying. It’s been four days.” Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You heard Me. 42 I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me.”

43 After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him and let him go." 45 Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what He did believed in Him.

Jesus is the Lord of the Grave!

Jesus is the Lord of the Grave and He longs to raise our body and belief to new life!

## The Call (v.38-39)

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## Ephesians 2:3-9

3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, 5 made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! 6 Together with Christ Jesus He also raised us up and seated us in the heavens, 7 so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace through His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— 9 not from works, so that no one can boast.

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