

John 11:15-42

15-16. "And **I am GLAD for YOUR SAKES** that I was not there, **that you may BELIEVE.** Nevertheless let us go to him." Then **Thomas, who is called Didymus**, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

- **Luke 6:13-16** "And when it was day, He called His _____ to Him; and from them He _____ twelve whom He also named _____: Simon, whom He also named _____, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and _____; Matthew and _____; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor."

Definition: "Thomas, who is called Didymus" - Didymus means "twin." Thomas was evidently one of a pair of twins.

Definition: "I am GLAD for YOUR SAKES" - Up to this point, Jesus' disciples had faith enough to believe that He could heal, and they had seen Him raise two people back to life that had just died. Now, Jesus would show them that **He has POWER of life and death**, even to raise someone back to life who has been buried and already started decomposing.

17-24. So when Jesus came, He found that he had already **been in the tomb four days.** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, "**Lord, IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE**, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "**I KNOW that he will RISE AGAIN in the resurrection at the last day.**"

- **Daniel 12:2** "And many of those who _____ in the _____ of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____, some to shame and everlasting contempt (abhorrence)."
- **I Corinthians 15:20-22 & 26** "But now Christ is _____ from the _____, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (in death). For since by man (Adam) came _____, by Man (Jesus) came also the _____ of the _____. For as in _____ all _____, even so in Christ all shall be made _____." (Verse 26) "The last _____ that will be destroyed is _____."

Definition: "Lord, IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE" - How often do **WE question the Lord's timing**? We also question WHAT God is doing or has done by saying, "Lord, IF ONLY such and such had happened...." We've already seen that **Jesus deliberately WAITED** two extra days before going to Bethany to see Lazarus. Jesus knew exactly what He was doing, and the timing was perfect!

- **Ephesians 1:11** "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the _____ of Him who _____ all _____ according to the counsel of His own _____."
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that _____ things _____ together for _____ to those who _____ God, to those who are the called according to His _____."

Definition: "Already been in the tomb FOUR DAYS" - The Jews believed that the soul stayed near a person's body for the first three days after death, but that by the FOURTH day, **decomposition would be starting**, and the person was REALLY DEAD. Jesus waited until Lazarus had been **in the tomb for four days**, so that the miracle of raising him from the dead would be all that much greater in the eyes of the Jews.

Definition: "I KNOW that he will RISE AGAIN" - Martha knew the Old Testament promised resurrection of our physical bodies at some time in the distant future. "At the Last Day" refers to Resurrection Day and the Day of Judgment. Job, in Job 19:25-27, believed that even after his physical body rotted away in death, he would still "see God" in a real body of flesh. Our resurrection bodies will be solid, able to be touched, flesh bodies, but DIFFERENT, in that they will be PERFECT bodies, the way God originally made man before he sinned.

- **Job 19:25-27** "For I know that my _____ lives, and He shall stand at last (at the Last Day) on the earth; and after my _____ is _____, this I know, that IN MY FLESH I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"
- **Isaiah 26:19** "Your _____ shall live; together with my dead body they shall _____. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust....."

Definition: "REDEEMER" - One who redeems. Redeeming means **buying back, freeing from captivity** by paying of a RANSOM. Jesus PAID with His blood, which He shed for us on the cross, for us to be FREED from the CAPTIVITY of SIN.

25-27. Jesus said to her, "**I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE.** He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And **whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- **John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the _____, the _____ and the _____. No one comes to the _____ except through Me.'"
- **John 5:21 & 26-27** "For as the Father _____ the _____ and gives _____ to them, even so (in the same way) the _____ gives _____ to whom He will." (Verses 26-27) "For as the Father has _____ in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have _____ in _____, and has given Him authority to execute _____ also, because He is the Son of Man."
- **Acts 10:42** "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by _____ to be _____ of the _____ and the _____."
- **Acts 17:31** "Because He has appointed a day on which He will _____ the world in _____ by the _____ whom He has ordained (appointed). He has given assurance of this to all by _____ Him from the _____."

Definition: "Whoever lives and BELIEVES in Me SHALL NEVER DIE" - What did Jesus mean by "never die"? Jesus is talking about ETERNAL death or SPIRITUAL death. He couldn't be talking about physical death, because we ALL have to "walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death", except for those who will be alive at His second coming (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-55).

- **John 6:39-40** "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of _____ He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should _____ it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the _____ and

- _____ in Him, may have _____ life; and I will _____ him up at the _____ day."
- **I John 5:11-13** "And this is the testimony: that God has _____ us _____, and this _____ is in His _____. He who has the _____ has _____; he who does not have the Son of God does _____ have _____. These things I have written to you who _____ in the name of the Son of God, that you may _____ that you have _____ life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the _____ of _____."

28-31. And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were **with her in the house, and comforting her**, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "**She is going to the tomb to WEEP there.**"

- **Mark 5:38-39** "Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult (uproar) and those who _____ and _____ loudly. When He came in, He said to them, 'Why make this _____ and _____? The child is not _____, but _____.'"

Definition: "With her in the house, and COMFORTING her" - These would be friends and family, of course, but people in those days also HIRED PROFESSIONAL MOURNERS! These professional mourners came to the funeral and stayed at the house to weep and wail loudly, and obviously felt they would not be doing their job if they didn't follow Mary out to the tomb and weep there.

32-38. Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, **He GROANED in the SPIRIT and was troubled.** And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." **JESUS WEPT.** Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" Then **Jesus, again GROANING in Himself**, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

- **Romans 8:26** "Likewise the _____ also _____ in our weaknesses. For we do _____ know what we should _____ for as we ought, but the _____ Himself makes intercession for us (prays for us) with _____ which cannot be uttered."

Definition: "GROANINGS which cannot be UTTERED" - "Utter" means to express in words. When the Holy Spirit PRAYS FOR US, He does it WITHOUT WORDS that we can hear. There are times when we pray, when we cannot find the words, but **our heart is crying out to God** for a particular situation, or on behalf of someone else. The Holy Spirit is praying for us and with us at such times. In the case of Jesus, the Bible tells us that He was filled and anointed with the Holy Spirit COMPLETELY (see Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18), so this would be the Holy Spirit GROANING within Jesus' own human spirit as He prayed the will of God for Lazarus.

- **Luke 4:18-21** "'The _____ of the Lord is upon Me (Jesus), because He has _____ Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to _____ the brokenhearted, to preach _____ to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to _____ at _____ those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.'" Then He closed the book,

and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this scripture is _____ in your _____.'

Definition: "Jesus, again GROANING in Himself" - This does NOT say that Jesus was groaning out loud. He was groaning **within Himself** (in His spirit), and it says He was groaning IN THE SPIRIT (again, within Himself, NOT out loud). The only thing Jesus did outwardly was He WEPT.

Definition: "Jesus WEPT" - The Greek indicates that this was a gentle, controlled weeping, **NOT the loud weeping and wailing** of the sisters and mourners. **Jesus FELT the PAIN** of Mary and Martha (that's what it means by **He "was troubled"**), even though He knew He was going to raise up Lazarus. **Jesus also feels OUR PAIN.** By His crying, He is also telling us it's okay to cry. Tears are one of God's means of cleansing our emotions, and relieving ourselves of stress.

- **Hebrews 4:15** "For we do _____ have a High Priest (Jesus) who _____ with our _____, but was in _____ points _____ as we are, yet without _____."

39-42. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, **by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.**" Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that **if you would believe you would SEE the GLORY of GOD?**" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "**Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.** And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

- **John 11:4** "When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is _____ unto _____, but for the _____ of God, that the Son of God may be _____ through it."
- **Read Acts 9:36-42** (Verses 4-41) "But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and _____. And turning to the _____ he said, 'Tabitha, _____.' And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her _____."

Definition: "Father, I thank You that You HAVE HEARD Me" - Jesus says that the Father has ALREADY HEARD His prayer in this situation. **When did Jesus pray?** When He "groaned in the spirit" (verses 33 & 38). But now He is talking out loud to the Father, so that the people around Him may hear and believe. A short time later, we will see Jesus talking out loud to the Father AGAIN, and the Father ANSWERING Him OUT LOUD so that the people could hear and believe.

- **John 12:28-30** "'Father, glorify Your name.' Then a _____ came from _____ saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.' Therefore the _____ who stood by and _____ it said that it had thundered. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to Him.' Jesus answered and said, 'This _____ did not come because of Me, but for your _____.'"