

EVERY DAY WITH JESUS (January 11-17)

Savor a segment of the gospel each day so that you may...

"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ." "II Peter 3:18)

MONDAY, January 11 - Please read: John 11:1-16 **Questions:** 1. What model response do Mary and Martha take in their time of trouble? 2. How is the response of Jesus in verse 4 a commentary on all events in our lives and in the history of the world? 3. Verses 5 and 6 remind us of a glorious truth but also of an agonizing reality – can you find those two? 4. Jesus' perspective on life is revealed in verses 9,10 – how would you describe it? 5. What consciousness does Thomas reveal in his fatalistic statement in verse 16? **Possible Answers:** 1. Mary and Martha immediately take their troubles to the LORD trusting in His love for them. 2. God the Father wants His Son to be glorified. All history, every individual event in some way serves for the purpose "*that God's Son may be glorified through it*". 3. Jesus loves us, this is true! God's timing is not always the immediate fix to the problems about which we pray. 4. Answers will vary; but, don't we see His fearless approach to his present and future knowing that He is seeking God's will and the future is in His loving hands? This approach to life can be ours too. 5. Jesus words to His disciples about His own death and about their taking up the cross and following Him are being heard and are influencing their thinking eventhough they don't fully comprehend either concept. **Prayer:** Dear LORD, help us to trust in the reality of Your love for us in Jesus. In such faith, lead us to entrust all of our circumstances into Your care. Then, enable us to go patiently and boldly forward in faithfulness without fear. AMEN!

TUESDAY, January 12 - Please read: John 11:17-27 **Background:** Please take the time to ponder and savor verses 25 and 26 applying them to yourself and your loved ones!! **Questions:** 1. What are some things that resulted to Jesus' glory as a result of His delay? 2. What do you think of Martha's words to Jesus in verses 21 & 22? 3. How might you describe Jesus' response in verse 23 to her confession? **Possible Answers:** 1. Lazarus was decidedly dead – there could be no doubt about it. This would be no awakening from a coma. He was starting to decay. Also, it gave time for the word about the death of this prominent man to spread and for people to subsequently gather to comfort his survivors. 2. Answers will vary. Was she expressing regret or something worse in verse 21? Wouldn't we agree that her confession in verse 22 reflects awesome faith?! 3. Answers will vary. Could we agree that His words are ambiguous; that is, they hold open more than one possibility of what will happen? **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, with Martha we say, "*I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world*". Strengthen our confidence in this most basic truth and, as we grasp it, may its impact be seen in every aspect of our lives and our relationships. AMEN!

WEDNESDAY, January 13 – Please read: John 11:28-44 **Questions:** 1. Compare Mary's first words to Jesus in verse 32 with the words of Martha which we read yesterday in verses 21 & 22. Do you see a possible difference? 2. Verse 35 has been identified as the shortest verse in the Bible. What does this short verse speak to your heart and mind? 3. Martha's faith in God's possibilities had been bold (verse 22) but what did even she need? 4. We have seen in recent days that this entire event was for Jesus' glory; how was it to be for the good of people then and now? 5. When will the echo of Jesus' words in verses 43 be heard? **Possible Answers:** 1. It's what we call an argument from silence; but, it appears that Mary is focused in regret (and possible blame?) to Jesus without faith and hope for what He can still do. We know Martha (Luke 10:38-42) as a person who devoutly loved and listened to Jesus' words; yet, she, like us, perhaps still needed to better keep His power and promises in mind. 2. Answers will vary. 3. She needed to have her faith reinforced. 4. God's glory is always for our good. Here the desired goal I heard on the last day (see John 5:28,29). **Prayer:** Jesus You are awesome! You are indeed the Resurrection and the Life. May I continue to receive that life by faith and share in the resurrection to glory which You have promised to all believers! AMEN!

THURSDAY, January 14 – Please read: John 11:45-57 **Questions:** In what way do these verses present the typical contrast between the ways of God and the response of man in the life of Christ and, really, in the history of the world? **Possible Answers:** Answers will vary. God displays His glory and man responds with unbelief, denial, opposition. **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help me to be on guard against myself – my blindness to Your glory and grace; my stubbornness to see and do Your will. Amen!

FRIDAY, January 15 – Please read: John 12:1-11 **Questions:** 1. How far has the fragrance of Mary's perfume spread? 2. Because we are sinners living among other sinners, what often and easily happens when people express their faith and love? 3. We can always see the poor among us, how can we see Jesus? **Possible Answers:** 1. That fragrance will be "smelled" among God's people in all the world throughout time and then forever in heaven. 2. We are so prone to judge and condemn instead of to appreciate and imitate the generous acts of faith and love we see in others. 3. We still see Jesus in the poor around us (See Matthew 25:31-48). **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, open my eyes to see: to see without jealousy and criticism the offerings of others; to see You in the needy around me. Then, with my eyes open, open my heart to respond. AMEN!

SATURDAY, January 16 – Please read: John 12: 12- 19 **Questions:** Contrast the glory of Christ and His humility in these verses. **Possible Answers:** Insights will vary. Included in His glory: a large crowd to welcome Him; palm branches, symbolic of royalty and victory, are obtained and used in His path (even people's clothes were spread before Him as we know); praise and titles are given to Him that belong to God and to His promised Messiah alone; the glory of a God who is willing to humble Himself to save sinners! On the humility side: a lowly beast of burden instead of a kingly steed; voices of the Pharisees and citizenry of Jerusalem used to criticize and deny instead of to praise and believe; **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, as glorious as Your entrance was that day, it was unfathomably less than You deserve. May we be humbled by the glory of Your grace and then emboldened by it to serve You in genuine humility. AMEN!

SUNDAY, January 17 – Please read: John 12:20-36 **Background:** It is commonly thought that the Greeks mentioned here are Greek speaking gentiles who lived in the Decapolis (literally "the ten cities") region north of Judea and mostly east of the Jordan. **Questions:** 1. How is "*the Son of Man glorified*"? 2. What will be the response of those who know and believe that they have been saved by the Son of Man? 3. What does the LORD want to happen to the whole world? 4. Ask God: "What's my personal role in Your goal?" **Possible Answers:** 1. The greatest glory of the Son of Man is the truth about His gracious love which caused Him to be willing to offer up His holy life as a sacrifice to God to take away the sins of the whole world. 2. Their response will be to serve by giving up their lives to Him. 3. The LORD desires to "*draw all men to Himself*" that they might receive salvation. 4. Answers will be both common and unique to each of us. **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, may You be glorified and Your world grace through me and all other believers. AMEN!