

Enemies of Walking by Faith
John 11

John 11:17-27 (HCSB)

When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem (about two miles away). Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him. But Mary remained seated in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Yet even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. Martha said, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die--ever. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

John 11:38-45 (HCSB)

Then Jesus ... came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. "Remove the stone," Jesus said. Martha, the dead man's sister, told Him, "Lord, he already stinks. 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?" So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You heard Me. I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me." After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 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." Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what He did believed in Him.

I. The enemy that tempts me to refuse to wait for God to work His way.

Verse 20-21 - As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him. But Mary remained seated in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV)

He works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we ... might be for the praise of his glory.

Psalms 37:7 (NIV)

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; ...Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil."

II. The enemy that tempts me to think about my circumstances only in the realm of the natural and explainable.

Verses 22-24 – "Yet even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. Martha said, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

III. The enemy that tempts me to respond to my circumstances with a critical spirit.

Verse 39 – “Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told Him, “Lord, he already stinks. It’s been four days.”

1 Corinthians 3:3 (NIV)

“You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

Matthew 13:58 (HCSB)

“And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.”



“I no longer run for self-recognition, but to reflect His perfect will that is already set in stone. I don’t deserve anything. But by grace, through faith, Jesus has given me everything. Records come and go. The glory of God is eternal.” – Sidney McLaughlin