

## UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

### "The Gospel of John"

Pastor Jim Otte

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#### Lesson 48: John 11:25-12:11 "You Might Need Your Eyes Adjusted!"

##### From Last Week:

- a. Life in this world is full of losses.
- b. Grief comes with the full range of emotions, especially anger.
- c. "Life" and "Death" are lenses through which we interpret what is going on around us.
- d. Fear-based anger has little value, because when the anger is spent – fear remains.
  - i. Fear drives people into self-protective instincts, which care little for others' lives and property.
  - ii. Fear flows out of "death" energy.
  - iii. Fear is part of the 'unholy trinity' of: fear, shame, & guilt.
- e. Grace-based anger has great value, as we protect the lives and property of others, justice for all, and the desire to do good.
  - i. After the anger is spent, Grace empowers us to overcome our indifference.
  - ii. Grace fuels the holy trinity of: faith, hope, and love
- f. "Whoever believes...though he die...he live...shall never die." – Jesus double-layers the meaning of "live/die" and "life/death." Physical life and death are temporal and limited to this world.
  - a. The promise of eternal life is the last word, overcoming the fear that death is the end!
    - i. Eternal life gives new meaning, and a new comparison, when dealing with the struggles and losses of this life.
    - ii. **Romans 8:18**. *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*
- g. "She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord. I believe...' – Martha's profession of faith went beyond their friendship. She was a woman of great trust in Jesus!

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."



- a. "Mary...fell at His feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here..." – Echoing Martha's sentiments, Mary speaks in grief (what all of us have thought!)

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved<sup>34</sup> in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

- a. "He was deeply moved" – Jesus' human nature grieved at the death of His friend. Jesus' grieving reminds you that grief, though painful, is good for us!
- b. "Could not He...also have kept this man from dying?" – There's the question we all want to know...
  - a. Why does God allow bad things to happen to "good" people?
  - b. Why doesn't God stop painful things from happening?
  - c. Is God selective as to whom He chooses to heal, and those who are not healed?
  - d. Is God's sovereignty swayed by the goodness of the individual or of how faithful he/she is?
  - e. Does the amount of faith, or how strong it is, cause God to lean toward healing?
- c. In the midst of grieving, we yearn for the person we lost!
  - a. Some people, in grieving "unfair" losses, give up on God: "I can't believe in a loving God, who would allow my loved one to die."
  - b. Our minds struggle with the "Why?" to answer the "What?"
  - c. The quagmire of conflicting emotions flood our bodies and minds.
  - d. At the end of the day, what we really want to know is, "Are we still loved? Is our loving God still there?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

- a. "Did I not tell you, that if you believed, you would see...?" – Jesus is adjusting Martha's eyesight of faith. Martha undoubtedly believed she would see her brother at the resurrection on the last day – not that day!
- b. "on account of the people...that they may believe" – Jesus is clearly now performing signs which point to His divinity, not to proof anything to the



Sanhedrin, but to prepare His disciples for the work they would do AFTER His ascension.

- c. **"Unbind him, and let him go."** – the wrappings of death were not appropriate garb for the living!

a. The wrappings of death:

b. The coverings for the living: