

Last week we looked at Jesus as *Lord of Light* as He healed the man who was born blind. This week we finish the series on the signs in John's Gospel with a look at John 11:1-44 and Jesus as *Lord of Eternity*.

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you saw no solution? A time when the closest friend you sought for help was not available?
  - Consider this week's story to be that type of situation for Mary and Martha.
  - Then consider how Jesus not only comforted them but gave them a glimpse of his power over the grave.
  - How would this make you feel?
  
2. **Read John 11:1-5.** The situation seems simple enough. A very close friend of Jesus is ill, and his sisters have asked Jesus to come and help him.
  - **Read John 12:1-7.** This is the story of Mary anointing Jesus with perfume and wiping his feet with her hair that John refers to in chapter 11, verse 2. Why do you think John might have used this forward reference in his Gospel when a reader would not yet have come to this story in the text?
  
  - **Verse 5** is quite explicit about Jesus' love for Lazarus and his sisters. Why do you think John included this statement?
  
  - Was Jesus mistaken in his statement that Lazarus sickness would not end in death?
  
3. **Read John 11:6-16.** The disciples indicate why they think Jesus was avoiding a return to the vicinity of Jerusalem.
  - **Read John 10:39-42** to see the contrast in Jesus' reception at the Temple and in the wilderness. How does Thomas' statement in **verse 16** reflect the seriousness of the threat to Jesus?
  
  - **Read John 9:3-4** and compare that statement of Jesus about day and night, light and darkness, with his statement in **John 11:9-10**.

4. **Read John 11:17-27.**
  - From **John 11:6 and 17**, did Jesus' delay in coming prevent his arrival before the death of Lazarus?
  
  - What does Martha's answer to Jesus' statements and questions in verses 24 and 26 indicate about her faith?
  
5. **Read John 11:28-32** to discover Jesus' encounter with the second sister.
  - **Read John 11:21** again. Why might the two sisters have both used the same phrase in their greeting to Jesus?
  
  - **Read John 11:37 and John 4:43-54** (the second sign, the healing of the official's son). Does the statement of 11:37 indicate belief or disbelief?
  
6. **Read John 11:33-37.** What was Jesus' reaction to the deep grief of those around him? **John 11:35** is the shortest verse in the entire Bible. What does its context tell you about its meaning?
  
7. **Read John 11:38-39.**
  - What does verse 39 tell us about Martha and her state of mind? How does this statement relate to her statements in verses 24 and 26?
  
8. **Read John 11:40-44.** What does Jesus say is the reason for this sign? How might this affect your desire to believe with great depth?
  
9. Simple Questions:
  - What might we learn about human nature from this *sign*?
  - What might this *sign* tell us about our common needs?
  - What is this *sign* telling us about Jesus?

Pray that God will help you know that Jesus, *the Lord of Eternity*, is interested in the matters that concern you deeply today.