**John 11:1-7, 11, 14-15, (NKJV),** emphasis mine, “Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother **Lazarus was sick.** 3Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, **he whom You love is sick**.”4When Jesus heard *that,* He said, “**This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it**.”5Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6So, **when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was**. 7Then after this He said to *the* disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”11These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”14Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

**The profoundness of the Bethany, "Life and Death" story compels me to "think on these"......**

1. Lazarus was Jesus' good friend, in fact, the Bible calls Lazarus "***he whom you love"*** **(FYI: you will remember that the scripture also calls John that, as well! So, understand that Lazarus was very important to Jesus! );** 2. Jesus ***"on purpose"*** delayed any action-- "So when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, ***he stayed two more days in the place where He was!!"***(a death-sentence for Lazarus to be sure!); 3. ***THEN***, (This is **BIG!** Sit up and take notice! ), Jesus told the puzzled, confused, "clue-less" disciples some mind-boggling, security-rocking, knee-knocking news: "“Lazarus is dead, 15***and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe.”***

4. ***FINALLY,*** Jesus did not forget, "blow off" or desert His friend. His directive, "Let us go to Judea again,” prompted "the grand finale of this ‘WATCH ME CONQUER DEATH’ melodrama!" And, in John's narrative, **(remember, he was an eye-witness to this miracle!)......**Jesus and the disciples arrived in Bethany to find Lazarus "several days" dead and buried...

**40 “Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” 41Then 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. 42And 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.” 43Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” 44And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”**

**Of course, we understand that this "ended well" for Lazarus, spectacularly, in fact! For sure, we realize that death took a "back seat" to Jesus' command that long ago day in Bethany! But, realistically, the "crowning jewel" of this story is the significance and assurance for us some two thousand years later....that because of Bethany's "death stomped down by the heel of Jesus" tale, because of the Bethlehem Baby, all grown up, and because of the beautiful, brilliant, bountiful, benevolent "Bestower of Breath," we catch a glimpse of the “Calvary Story” that will, like this Bethany tale, yield an empty grave! And, then, we can resolve to be repaired, rebuilt spiritually, reconciled to God, reunited with our first love and fully restored in the shadow of a “stone rolled away!!”**

**Today, this "That you MAY Believe” Tuesday, contemplate and consider the Lazarus promise, knowing all the while that, looming large in the distance, Golgotha’s Hill would be our sure and true promise forever!**

**It is always,**

**Because of Jesus, lindi**

**Dear Father, thank You for an empty grave, a stone rolled away, and a promise of life everlasting. In the hard truths, in the difficult dictates, let me never lose sight of Your Son, Jesus. Take me deeper in Your Word, and remind me of the prize. Let my days be purposeful, and forgive the waste of time that encircles me. Help me be more like You, in thoughts, in manners, in direction. For those suffering loss, I ask comfort. For those in need, let me see how to help. For those physically ill, I pray for the healing power You gave to Lazarus. And, for those without hope, show them Your Bethany story. Thank You for You. I worship and adore You forever. Let Your kingdom come quickly, my King. I pray for peace in Jerusalem. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**“That you may believe,” cost Jesus His life. Call me, and let’s make sure, that you understand the magnitude of that sacrifice. 316-323-3889.**