



John 11:17-27 New Revised Standard Version

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Notes _____



**"Death is not the opposite of life, but a part of it."
-Haruki Murakami**

It has been said that some people live as though they are never going to die. By that, it is usually meant they are full-steam ahead, grasping onto every adventure, and leaving very few things unexperienced. While there is nothing wrong with approaching life with a "go-getter" mentality, the reality is everyone must die at some point. It is not exactly something we like to think about very much. We like to prolong life for as long as we can, but none of us knows when our moment might come. It is this fragile nature of life that we are invited to consider during the Lenten season. The ashes upon our foreheads on Ash Wednesday remind us, "We are but dust and to dust we one day shall return." While it may not be our favorite subject for discussion, it is something we all must consider. Helpful to this consideration is one's relationship with God through Jesus. It may not make death go away completely in this life, but it does offer us a different perspective for considering end of life matters.

- 1. A relationship with Jesus does not eliminate death.**
- 2. It is fully natural to express frustration because of death.**
- 3. Although death is painful, Jesus transforms it into something we don't have to fear.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, my life upon this earth is not without its limitations. The years come and go so quickly and nothing is guaranteed from moment to moment. Help me to treasure life as a precious gift and enable me to see life through the lens of eternity. Amen.