

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS

SCRIPTURE:

John 11:38-44

OBSERVATION

Jesus, being deeply moved again arrives at the tomb of his friend Lazarus (v.36).

Lazarus has been in there 4 days.

The tomb smells.

A stone barrier holds in the smell of death and decay and rot.

And Jesus says, "Take it away."

Martha responds the same way we do when Jesus wants to uncover the parts of our lives that stink. The sins we have committed and the ones committed against us that bring so much shame. Dank, dark, secret, soul-staining shame that we roll stones over and keep away from everyone. We ourselves don't even like to go there. But, we do. We walk past our own smelly tombs everyday.

And then Jesus has someone uncover it. And calls to us to come out. We thought we were walking by the tomb, but all along we had been rattling around inside. "_____, come out!" Put your name in that blank. Put the unpleasantries in that blank. Be exposed. Jesus isn't afraid of it. He brings light and life to our darkness and death. And he does it through exposure.

Lazarus came out (v.44). You can too.

Jesus told his friends to "unbind him, and let him go" (v.45).

This is community.

APPLICATION

Do you have and do you want friends who love Jesus who can help unbind you? Or do you prefer to manage it yourself? How is that working for you? Do you want to come out of the tomb? What would that look like?

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for exposing me. Jesus thank you that there is therefore now no condemnation if we are in you. Jesus thank you for my friends, my community, who continue to unbind me. Thank you for new life. Keep calling me out of the tomb and into the light.