

## **DAY 2 - TUESDAY**

### **MORE THAN ABSTRACT BELIEF**

#### **SCRIPTURE:**

John 11:17-27

#### **OBSERVATION**

It is significant that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days (v.17). There was no chance of his death being misinterpreted. Jesus had a plan.

But Mary and Martha, in the midst of their grief and loss didn't see Jesus' plan. We are no different. There was still more for these two sisters to know about Jesus.

The dialogue between Martha and Jesus points out that Martha didn't believe wrong things about Jesus. "If you would have been here, my brother would not have died" (v.21). That is probably true and shows that Martha really did believe Jesus could heal. "I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." She believed Jesus had a special relationship with God. She believed she would see her brother again in the resurrection on the last day (v.24). She believed Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world" (v.27). Martha believed... abstractly.

That is why she didn't explicitly ask for Jesus to bring her brother back immediately. Abstract belief in Jesus doesn't ask much of Jesus. But Jesus doesn't let Martha (or us) remain in such abstraction. Jesus doesn't just procure or promise resurrection and life. Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" (v.25). Jesus calls Martha, and you and I, out of mere abstract belief and in into personal belief.

Jesus waited four days. To move Martha from abstract belief to personal, experiential belief.

#### **APPLICATION**

What beliefs do you have about Jesus that are merely abstract, but not yet personal or experiential? Tell Him. There is no hint in the passage that Jesus was offended by Martha. There is no chance he is offended by you.

#### **PRAYER**

Jesus, I don't want to just know things about you. I want to know you.