Good Grief!

John 11:17-37

Introduction:

I. The Grief of the Sisters – 11:17-32

A. Martha’s Response – 11:17-27

1. The Lord’s Arrival (Coming) – 11:17-20

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“So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about ﻿﻿two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Martha seems to have been the active one and Mary is the more contemplative one.”

We see this also in Luke 10:39-42.

In that context, we ask the question: Which is more important, physical food or spiritual food?

2. The Lord’s Announcement – 11:21-27

a. Martha’s Faith Stated – 11:21-24

1). Her Boldness Shown – 11:21-22

a.) Faith in the Past – 11:21

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“Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

b). Faith in the Present – 11:22

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“But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give to You.”

2). Her Belief Stated – 11:23-24

“Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, ﻿﻿“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

How did she know that? -- It’s in the O.T. - Job 19:25-27 (Dan.12)

“For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is ﻿﻿destroyed, this *I know,* that ﻿﻿in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my ﻿﻿heart yearns within me!”

b. Martha’s Faith Stretched – 11:25-27

1). Jesus’ Revelation – 11:25-26

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“Jesus said to her, “I am ﻿﻿the resurrection and the life. ﻿﻿He who believes in Me, though he may ﻿﻿die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Jesus began with the 2 words “I Am” [ἐγώ εἰμι] - That is the O.T. name for Jehovah “He is the self-existing One” (Ex. 3:14)

2). Martha’s Response – 11:27

“She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, ﻿﻿I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” (See John 20:31)

B. Mary’s Response – 11:28-32

1. Jesus Order – 11:28

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“And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The Teacher has come and is calling for you.”

2. Mary’s Obedience – 11:29-30

“As soon as she heard *that,* she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but ﻿﻿was in the place where Martha met Him.

3. Mary’s Obeisance (worship) – 11:31

“Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”

When she arrived, though she was grieving for her brother, she put that aside. First things first, she worshiped Him before she did anything else.

Her comforters went with her to grieve with her and comfort her. That’s what real comfort is, being sympathetic. Real sympathy is “your hurt in my heart.” That is “Good Grief!”

Paul put it this way,

﻿“For though I am ﻿﻿free from all *men,* ﻿﻿I have made myself a servant to all, ﻿﻿that I might win the more; and ﻿﻿to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the ﻿﻿law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; ﻿﻿﻿to ﻿﻿those *who are* without law, as without law ﻿﻿(not being without ﻿﻿law toward God, but under ﻿﻿law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; ﻿﻿to the weak I became ﻿﻿as weak, that I might win the weak. ﻿﻿I have become all things to all *men,* ﻿﻿that I might by all means save some. ﻿Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you.*” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

b. Her Confidence Came with Her – 11:32

1). Confidence in His Person.

“Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she ﻿﻿fell down at His feet, saying to Him, ﻿﻿She worshiped Him as God.”

2). Confidence in His purpose.

“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

He was doing the signs of Messiah. If He chose to do so, He could raise Lazarus. He had raised people from death before.

II. The Grief of the Savior – 11:33-37

A. Jesus Wept – 11:33-35

1. What He Saw – 11:33a

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“Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews (who came with her) weeping.”

2. What He Suffered – 11:33b

“He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.”

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear.

3. What He Said – 11:34

“And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

4. What He Showed – 11:35

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“Jesus wept” -- Is the shortest verse in the English New Testament — English – “﻿Jesus wept” (9 letters) Greek - ἐδάκρυσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς (17 letters) “Rejoice evermore” (15)- Πάντοτε χαίρετε (14)

Why did He weep? -- These were His friends, his close acquaintances. He was grieved for them. He was also sorry for the race. He had created the whole world and all that is in it for fellowship and love and Satan had ruin it and all who were in it including these people.

B. The Crowd Wondered – 11:36-37

1. His Strong Display of Feeling – 11:36

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“Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!” ﻿﻿

They were right! Jesus loved Mary, Martha, Lazarus and their grieving friends.

2. His Seeming Display of Failure – 11:37

“And some of them said, “Could not this Man, ﻿﻿who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

This is a logical question. The answer is yes, He could have!

Could God keep you out of that awful situation in which you find yourself? Yes, He could.

Why did He not keep Lazarus from dying? He had another plan and He was about to carry it out.

Conclusion: “Through It All”

Verse 1  
I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow, there's been times I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation that my trials come only to make me strong.  
  
Verse 2  
I've been to lots of places, I've seen a lot of faces, there's been times I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hours, yes, those precious lonely hours, Jesus lets me know that I was His own  
  
Verse 3  
I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys, I thank Him for the storms He brought me through. For if I'd never had a problem, I’d never know that God could solve them, I'd never know what faith in God could do.

Chorus  
Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word.

Yes, Charlie Brown Grief is Good!