

John 11:17-37

Series – In His Own Words

Message – The Way, the Truth, and the Life

March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday

Fifth Reformed Church

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### **If You Had Been Here**

- John 11:17, 20, 21
  
- The two sisters demonstrate two typical \_\_\_\_\_ to devastating loss in this life.
  - Go to God / Avoid God
  - Lean into your faith / Abandon your faith
  - Ask God / \_\_\_\_\_ God
  
- As you recall the most painful, difficult, and disorienting experiences of your life, do you find yourself – like Martha – \_\_\_\_\_ God was absent?
  
- Judges 6:12-13

### **Back to the Present**

- John 11:23-25
  
- “Resurrection” was \_\_\_\_\_ a fancy way of saying life after death.
- “Resurrection” did not mean a non-bodily, \_\_\_\_\_ survival after death.
- “Resurrection” means going through death and out the other side into a new mode of \_\_\_\_\_ existence.
  
- He took Martha’s future hope of the resurrection and brought it \_\_\_\_\_ to the present.

### **God With Us and For Us**

- John 11:33-34
  
- Amid their suffering and pain, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ and wept with Mary and Martha.
- Specifically, the change of thinking is this:
  - From an “If-you-had-been-here” way of thinking, where we avoid God, blame God, and abandon faith...
  - To a “God-is-with-us-and-for-us” way of thinking, where we go to God, ask God, and lean into faith...
  
- Easter \_\_\_\_\_ to the places of your greatest loss and deepest grief.
  
- Mark 1:15

### **How will you respond to God’s word today?**

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### **Reflection Questions**

1. Can you relate to the two typical reactions to loss in this life? Share an experience of loss that either drove you toward God or away from God.
2. Do you think of God as absent from your daily life or present with you in daily life? Discuss this mental model and share how you feel you arrived at that way of thinking.
3. The message focused on the meaning of the word “resurrection.” Was anything in that discussion new to you?
4. Did the message or scripture challenge you to a change of thinking? If so, how?
5. What captured your attention in the scripture or message?
6. What might God be saying to you?
7. What are you going to do about it?