

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro

a. Male and Female Disciples in the Gospel John

Mary (2:1-11) and a royal servant (4:46-54)

Nicodemus (3:1-21) and a Samaritan woman (4:4-42)

A man born blind (9:1-41) and Martha (11:1-54)

Mary in Bethany and Judas (12:1-8)

Mary and the beloved disciple (19:25-27)

Mary Magdalene (20:11-18) and Thomas (20:24-29)

From *Women and Men in the Fourth Gospel*, Margaret M. Beirne

Do you see how each pair of man and woman above has something in common?

If the pairing is the author's intention, then what do you think the author wanted to talk about?

b. Four Days Late

When Jesus finally arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for four days. This note is significant. There was a well-known Jewish belief (attested from about A.D 200) that the soul of a dead person remained in the vicinity of the body "hoping to reenter it" for three days, but once decomposition set in, the soul departed. John wants us to know clearly that Lazarus is truly dead and that the miracle of Jesus cannot be construed as a resuscitation. – *John: NIV Application Commentary*, Gary M. Burge

3. Let Us Read John Ch. 11

4. Discussion

- a. Does verse 4 remind you of anything? And what do you think this verse would make the readers expect in this story?
- b. Why do you think Jesus stayed two days longer, although he heard that Lazarus was sick? How do you think the early Christians would understand the delay of Jesus to Lazarus?

- c. How do you understand Jesus' answer to the disciples in verses 9 and 10?
- d. What did Jesus mean by "for your sake" in verse 15?
- e. What would early Christians learn from the conversation between Jesus and Martha?
- f. Can you compare Martha with the man born blind in chapter 9?
- g. Can you find out any implication in verse 28?
- h. Does verse 29 remind you of any story?
- i. Why do you think Jesus didn't come to the house of Mary and Martha?
- j. In verse 33, how do you understand Jesus' emotion, "being greatly disturbed"?
What do you think caused Jesus to be disturbed?
Is this same emotion with verse 38?
- k. How do you understand Martha's response to Jesus command to take away the tombstone in verse 39? Read the intro b.
- l. What does the author's comment in verses 51-53 imply?

5. Closing Prayer