

Title: The Sisters Have Faith - John 11:17-37

Read:

¹⁷⁻²⁰When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. Bethany was near Jerusalem, only a couple of miles away, and many of the Jews were visiting Martha and Mary, sympathizing with them over their brother. Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house. ²¹⁻²²Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you." ²³Jesus said, "Your brother will be raised up." ²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time." ²⁵⁻²⁶"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?" ²⁷"Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world." ²⁸After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." ²⁹⁻³²The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him. Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³⁻³⁴When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" ³⁴⁻³⁵"Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. ³⁶The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." ³⁷Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."

Think:

Martha and Mary seem to know who they were dealing with in this passage. They are convinced if Jesus had just turned up earlier then their brother would not have died. That is faith, but not only partial faith, that is total faith in Jesus. We have faith in many things in our lives. We have faith that the guy in front of the aeroplane that takes us on holiday, knows how to fly, even though we never see him. We have faith that the teacher at school or college actually know what they are talking about. We have faith that our friends care for us, but how is our faith in God? When we pray for God to heal our friends, do we have faith that He will? Maybe we have not seen answers to prayers in the past, or at least, answers that we recognise. Do we have faith when we ask God to guide us in our lives? I have no magic answer, because having faith is hard. Having the faith that Martha and Mary had in Jesus will take some time to come, but maybe the best time to start is now.

Pray:

Father, it is hard to completely believe when we pray to you, that you will answer our prayers. Please Lord, would you give me the strength and faith I need to do that. Amen.

Action:

We have faith that God will spread his Good news using aftershock.org.uk. Why don't you be part of our answer to our prayers by telling someone today about aftershock.org.uk. Bye.