4

And they were willing to inform Him with all of their concerns

- though God knows all of our wants, and our griefs, and our cares, Helneeds to hear about them from us. Lord, behold he whom thou loveth is sick. They do not say, Lord, behold he who loveth thee, but the one that Jesus loves. Our love to Him is not worthy to be compared to the love, the special kindness which he has shown to us. It is no new thing for those whom Jesus loves to be sick. All things come alike to all. It is a great comfort to us when we are sick to have those above us and about us, that they should pray for us.

account and low lesus received this.

he said the message received was not the kind of sickness that was unto death. That is (it) as not fatal. Truly he was dead for four days and this news had come. There was the final account of his sickness and he died, and yet, we find that death is just a farewell to this world. It is a way that we shall not return. And in a sense, we go beyond this world. Thus phrist said, of the maid, she is not dead. This is for the glory of God. And an opportunity may be given for God's power to be manifest. The afflictions of the saints, the design for the glory of God, opportunity of showing favor. And this ought to reconcile us with the dark providences of this world. That they may be for the glory of

March 20, 66 30 Nord P.M WKRI - (Clark Sand).

"THE SIGNIFICANT SLEEP"

TOWN 11

One of the most remarkable things about the ministry of Jesus is that he had the power to raise the dead and so seldom used it. Jesus knew, as he did, the full glory of. the life here-after and I suppose he was slow to call back people to this life with its sorrows, its disappointments. Apparently he used his power only enough to prove beyond a question that he is the Lord of life and death alike. It is interesting to see that two of the three persons he raised from the dead were complete strangers whom he had never seen before. He raised the daughter of Jairus, who had just died. He raised the son of the widow of Nain as the funeral procession wound out of the village toward the burial ground. He raised his friend Lazarus after he had been in the tomb four days. It is the raising of Lazarus which we study James Sout Man Bring animal + was toothers. The broad had fire up his year tonight, under the theme, "The Significant Sleep." We will Acharged only recope Was to group astrice The arrivals Book This he soccured and scover that he is the Lord of life and the Lord of death. James Largery on to the animals down with all his might, down Rough an of & aring John, three are you going " How do you noy I plan to spiritualize and at the same time not do suppose it smoot ? answered the farmer, " are the Bull"

one can searly spore the subject to Doch - some do not Z

I hope to make and this will be for your edification.

- Evening Time Verse 1-16.
- Night Time Verse 17 38.
- Morning Time Verse 39-44. III.
- The Conclusion or Results Found in Verse 45-57.

Very briefly I will review. We will come face to face with the sunset, then we will move on into the deep sleep and then we'll come to the sunrise -- which is glorious. This is one of the greatest, most glorious, of all of Christ's miracles.

This opens with the Bethany family We read about this family who lived in a little village about two miles East of Jerusalem, situated before the Summit of the Mt. of Olives, on the slope of the mountain. (In) Bethany lived a dear family of friends, two sisters Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. Martha seems to have been the oldest of the three, the most active of the household, busy with the very practical things. Mary, on the other hand, enjoyed listening to Jesus, the wonderful words. Lazarus seems to have been the youngest. But he was a likeable young man. He had special responsibilities and they would have seemed to have been people of reasonable wealth. It described their residence there and to say the least, there were a large number of mourners who joined in at his death. Now

some would think that such a home would have been exempt. from all afflictions, but that is not always God's way. The highest honor is sometimes conferred through and in connection Tool beader 's Picture of Eventhing home - glow on surface ith sorrow. Quit nin, charle topen Thrown up against The of is a laborer writing his Komen of the Villagend. Acron the by is talling him to I. Evening Time. Verse 1-16.

We first make a brief run-down of the scripture reference here in Verse 1. He tells about those who lived here and Christ usually spent the night with them as I have mentioned before, about this family. The stands work sands

/ Z. In Verse 2, Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, I rather think this refers to that anointing of Christ which the evangelists relates in Chapter 12, Verse 3. This was she whose brother Lazarus was sick. Now the more friends we have the more frequently we will have affliction. The dearer they are to us, the more grief it will be.

V. 3 Verse 3, tidings came to Jesus about the sickness man. His sisters knew where Jesus was, a great way off beyond Jordan. They sent a special message to Him. This showed their affection and concern they had for their brother. They did not desire that he should die, they had no ambition about collecting what he would leave to them. They showed their love to him. seemen of theme will bold stoval and make

It also shows that they had regard for the Lord Jesus.

one asleep in death. And then he is going to call him and

VIZ In Verse 12, their mistake of the meaning, you notice the blunder they said. They said, Lord, if he is asleep, he should do well. Now some concern they had for their friend Lazarus. They hoped he would recover, and be saved from dying. And sleep is often nature's way of reviving the weak and weary powers which we have. If a good Christian goes to sleep, he shall do well.

In Verse 13, Jesus spoke of death. How dull of under standing these disciples were. For it had been easy to prevent them from remembering how frequently death was called sleep in the Old Testament. And how carefully John was to give the correction to the error, Jesus spoke of his death. Those that speak in different ways, misinterpret this.

made that he would resolve to go. And he gives notice concerning the death of Lazarus. He gives them the reason why he has delayed so long to go to see them. I am glad for your sakes that I was not there. He would have healed him and this would have prevented death. And it would not

the tondon and Alling in "The Vale of Rest " Coming of have been as much comfort to the friends. But when the

sun in the sky it is the symbol a approaching Death the dead. And he was resolved now to go funto this mission.

God, our sickness, our loss, our disappointment. As before the man that was blind, we find that Christ found honor in healing him. So it is in this man who is sick, and will die. Verse 5 and 6, Jesus waits on His wieit before going to see this patient. They had pleaded with him and Jesus loved these, but he did not make haste to come. But he took on the contrary time along the way. And he loved him, that is, he had great love for this family. (If) brist had come immediately and cured the sickness of Lazarus, he had done no more than he had done for many. Now (if) he had raised him to life just right after he died, well, that would have been no more than what he had done for some others. But for him to wait, this gave him an opportunity to do something more than he had been doing for anyone else. Now it seems that this delay was hard -- hard for us to understand that there would be any delay. In Verse 7, Jesus gave his disciples the reasons for his purpose now to go to Judea toward Jerusalem. As kindness for his friends, when we know that they were brought to their

purpose now to go to Judea toward Jerusalem. As kindness for his friends, when we know that they were brought to their last extremity, the brothers and sisters had said their farewell. And here was this man, and they were in despair. There was affliction, and Christ said that he would go this way.

In Verse 8, they had objection against this. They reminded him of the danger which might come. That at least

two months ago, they remembered it was fresh in their minds and they marveled that he would go this way again. And they showed great care of His safety.

In Verse 9 and 10, Christ gives an answer. The Jews had divided every day into twelve hours and made their hours longer or shorter according to the days. And he talked about the man's life as a day. This day which was divided up into opportunity. He shows them the comfort and the satisfaction which a man has in his own mind while he keeps in the way of duty. If any man walks in the day, he stumbles not. If any man keeps close to the duty and responsibilities he has, then and respects God's commandments, he does not hesitate, he walks uprightly. And he does not stumble. He relies upon God's word to rule.

In Verse 10, he shows the pain and the parrell a man is in who walks not accord to this rule, who walks in the night, who has the wrong ideas. They lead to the wrong actions.

of death) that here was a man who was asleep, the significant sleep. This is what Christ called the believers death.

You will note first he calls the believer his friend, our friend, Lazarus. There is a covenant friendship between Christ and the believer, a friendly affectionate one, when our

Lord Jesus owns his own and is not ashamed. And those that he is pleased to call friends are his disciples. And death does not break this bond of friendship, between Christ and the believer because Lazarus is dead. And yet Jesus speaks of him as a friend.

The second thing you note, he calls death of a believer a sleep. He sleepeth. It is good to call death by such names and titles, it will help to make us more familiar with it. The death of Lazarus was in a sense a sleep. Since we are sure to rise again at last, why should that make any difference. Why should not we believe that the hope and the resurrection, the eternal life, make it easy for us to put off this body, die. Put off these clothes and go to sleep. When he dies does he sleep from his labors. And death is the period which our cares and our toils are taken from us. The soul does not sleep, it becomes more active. The body sleeps. Without any toss, and terror, and we know that it is an easy sleep. The Greeks call their burying place dormitories.

This would give us the idea of places of rest, sleep.

I Thessalonians 4:14.

This is a particular intimation of concern. (Jesus) said

I will go and awake him. He could have done it if he had

stayed there, restored him at a distance, but he would put

more honor to this miracle by going to the grave and here is

And there were comforters. And it is the duty of all of us to comfort those who have sorrow, those who have these burdens, these times of grief who need our rememberances. We need their comfort as these women concerning their brother. The good name he had left behind but think about the happy estate he had gone too. When Godly relations and friends are taken from us, whatever occasion we have to be afflicted concerning ourselves. Those who are left behind missed them. We have a reason to be comforted and concerned.

So that they were followers of Jesus, yet those who had no respect for him were civil to him. As Christ came in this time of night.

- In Verse 20, there was an interview. We find that artha went out to meet him and she told him about Lazarus' death and they talked a little bit about it. And here was Christ at a great time of sorrow.
- 2 | Verse 21, and 22, she said she complains of Christ, for waiting so long. She said if you had been here, Well, she believed Christ's power. She believed that he was interested in the brother. But her faith seemed to be somewhat limited. Yet she corrected and comforts herself in the thought that Jesus is here and that she is willing to hope, based on Heaven now at a transmission of the street added to the real
- Verse 23, the comfortable words Jesus gave her. Your

In Verse 16, Thomas exciting his fellow disciples cheerfully to attend to His master's needs. With Lazarus who was now dead, so some take it, he was a dear friend of theirs. Now if he was dead, the disciples said we will so and we will die with him. They were like minded. If we die, we hope to be happy with him. Such a firm belief he has of a happiness on the other side of death. The more of our friends who translate it the fever cords we have to bind us on earth, and the more our hearts are drawn Heavenward. How wonderful does a good man speak of dying. As if it were but undressing and going to bed. We see in this the eyening time. A man gets drowsy, the sun sets, and he is ready to retire. We (get) a thrill everytime we read this story. And these (two) sisters were certainly concerned in their marvelous faith, It is strange how they placed all the emphasis upon getting the news to Jesus. And they worked to and fro by the bedsine of their beloved. Why doesn't he come. They would wonder. Surely he will be here any moment now, and would comfort them. But the evening time was fast passing and soon the darkness was to come on. He wasn't there. All through the night they watched and they waited, but still, he didn't come. Another day, and another day, slowly drags by, and still another day, and another night passes by.

And we discover that he dies and Jesus still has not arrived. Now this is some of the hardest parts of prayer, if God says "no" sometimes we have a difficult time accepting it. If he says yes, we are happy, we are glad. But when God keeps us and he says wait, we find it hard to bear. And sometimes it does seem that God waits a long time. And if he tarries, wait for it. For it will come and it will not be late. Habakkuk 2:3.

that, maybe it will give us the answer to why God has allowed some of us to suffer pain, some sorrow, some suffering, and some suffer day and night. Why is it that God delays to answer. Certainly Jesus knew that this man was sick. Also he knew of the worry on the heart of Mary and Martha. And sometimes we think God is not aware of our needs. We doubt that he even hears our prayers but Jesus assures us that God even notes the fall of one sparrow. And he knew the seriousness of this man's condition.

It was not because he was unable to heal him. As you study his life, he was able to heal. He helped the lepers, the criples, the deaf, the blind. Even the wind and the waves obeyed his voice. God is all sufficient. Sometimes we believe that our suffering is assigned, that God is angry or God wants us to suffer, and we doubt his love. He

whom thou loveth is sick. He loved them, not as a family but one by one. I think that Jesus loved them and he always deals with us as individuals. Well, why did he let him die. I don't know. I say with Paul, for now we see through a glass darkly but I would also say with Paul, but then face to face, now I know in part but then shall I know even as I am known (If we knew all the enswers we would not need faith, Faith takes up where sight leaves off. Now faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. Faith is the thing that helps us have good reason. But this man did die and many people came to comfort these friends. So Toward end of his lef Moved to Mes house - all fruntine yourand they come to comfort the family fund - Children to

II. Night Time. - Verse 17-38. III a ballad your bras office

Truly now Lazarus is in a deep sleep. And we find the position here of his friends. He found his friend Lazarus in the graye. In Verse 17. When he came near the town, probably the burying place belonged to the town. And he asked the neighbors about it. Jesus had waited and here he was in deep sleep.

Mary and Martha certainly were mourners. The house was a house of mourning.

Now not only did Jesus fail to save Lazarus, he didn't even come to the funeral. He was their best friend. Well, now, he could have come but he didn't. The neighbors came, they sent flowers, they helped in every way they could. But Jesus didn't show up.

you had been here my brother wouldn't have died. Cany times we feel that our troubles are signs that God has forgotten us. Sometimes our troubles come because God has not been with us. Lord, if thou had been here in our home. Many defeats, many miserable things that people say come.

In Verse 22, you notice the complete faith of Martha.

Even now, whatsoever thou will ask of God, God will give it.

It is so easy to lose hope, throw up our hands, be in despair. But we need to know that with Jesus, no person is hopeless. When you have Jesus, you have a solution to every problem. With Jesus something can be always done.

We are only hopeless because we refuse to believe it.

Sometimes on Sunday night we sing, only believe, only believe, all things are possible, only believe. And what a wonderful little chorus that is. God's power in our life limited only by lack of belief. What is the situation. Here is night, it is dark, even when death has come. Here is a woman who believes that Christ can do something. Where there

brother shall rise again. Christ directs Martha and us in her to look forward and think what shall be. That which will be certain, sure confort, the brother will come again. And Christ was speaking of it in general as the thing to be done, not which he himself would do. And there would be a resurrection day, there would be a time that death would lose the battle, and think here what Christ is saying. That we shall rise again.

In Verse 24, she counts it as a faithful saying that he shall rise in the last day. She believed in the doctrine of the resurrection she firmly believed in it. There shall be a last day and a time of the general resurrection that particular resurrection of each one. I know that I shall rise again. Yet she seems to think that saying not so well worthy of all the acceptation as really it was.

That he had the power, he was the resurrection and the life. Martha believed about the resurrection of the last day but here is the unspeakable comfort to all good Christians, that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life and will be so to them. He is the author of the return of life. And here is a promise and the ground of home which he offers. Whosoever liveth and believeth in Him, that is spiritual life, divine life.

in Verse 25, this promise is real. In Verse 26, he shall never die, for se will live again, for the soul will re-unite again and he will live. This will be an intermission time. When a man dies and goes into this night, he shall not die forever. His body shall not be forever dead in the grave, it dies, but the time shall be no more and the division shall be numbered in finish. And the spirit life from God shall enter into it. But this is not all, the soul shall not die that death.

Which is the second desth, which is death forever. Which shall have no power. Believeth thou this, do you believe this truth. Do you realize this truth.

In Verse 27, we find no willingness to yield. Her guide to ber faith. She stakes the entire thing upon Christ during this nighttime. The ground of her hope now is the authority of Christ. What she believed and what she confessed was that first he was a Christ, the Messiah. Second, that he was the Son of God. Third, that he was he who should come into the world. And she admitted this without any difficulty and tobut not the workers and all Shires good make

In Verse 28, notice what she said about his coming. That she needed to say no more, that here was one who could comfort her heart and bring the kind of fellowship she needed.

In-Verse 29, the haste which Mary made to Christ upon this notice given her. And she found the Master, she came to Him. In Verse 33, he groams within, there is trouble, in His soul. He suffered. He was disturbed. Verse 34, he inquired where they layed him. And this is night time now. In the lives of these people, this s18 nificant sleep, everything seems to have been silent. And there are just tears and the desire to go to the grave in Verse 35. The tears of compassion will come from the Christian as they assemble.

Werse 36, there is a wonderful interpretation that we read. So here it was night time. He had waited too late to come. Now Martha might have refused to speak to Christ again, he failed me when I asked His help. But be it to her everlasting glory, she didn't say that. Like so many people today, they misunderstand something with the preacher or some body and they say, well, I'm all through. Many should come with sympathy in their hearts, if only they understood the situation. In the sense on Maria called the sense of

There was a man once who was a pityful, hopeless creature ever met by anybody. It allowed some sorrow to take over and crush his spirit. And he said, may God help me from this. But he said I will never darken the door of a church again. The de ton the rate and a second of the

20

This is typical, of the resurrection, when the sound of the arch angel was taking place. And there will be a loud call. And the graves will open. And we'll be called by name. He does not say unto him live, for he himself must give life. But he says to him move. The event was according to his plan in Verse 44, if anyone asked where the soul of Lazarus was during the four days of separation, we are not told, but we have reason to think that it was in paradise and in joy. It was in the place of joy and pleasure.

Some who say that this was not right to call him back.

But this change in the resurrection will be in a moment will

be in the twinkling of an eye. As he got up out of the grave.

You will notice the grave clothes and there was a napkin over his face. And these people could see him. And they could also see how little he carried away with him. And how little we are going to carry away with us when we leave this world. Just a winding sheet and a coffin, no change, no money. And this was the condition in the grave. This was morning time taking place, and the people were standing in a cold dark graveyard. And the only thing that makes sense is action. The only thing the weepers want to have is their loved one back. I know of no one who better put this than John telling of what happened that day in the grave.

is no hope at all.

23 And Jesus said, Verse 23, our brother shall rise again

She said I know he shall rise in the resurrection. And this is the most beautiful comforting word when Jesus said I am the resurrection and the life. To comment on those words of our Lord is like trying to describe a rainbow or a sunset we are just so inadequate. You can't describe words like that, anymore than you can describe the melody of a pipe organ. It is just great news. There are many people who cannot hardly stand the night time as we find it here, the prd death They live in such mortal dread that even life, they have no joy. The Son of God comes and he tells us that in the midst of night time, that there is hope and that why people crowd into the church at Easte And they put on new clothes, and on that day, they come in large number. They think and believe there is hope. I don't know how we can compete with T. V. on Sunday Night and other times because there are programs that cost \$60,000 to put them on. We don't have that kind of money in church. We in the church have something more valuable to offer than that kind of entertainment. But having Christ is the answer to death. I think we stand tonight before thirsty people in the midst of the desert. And as long as people desire life instead of death, they will come to Christ.

In the midst of night, in Verse 26, we find that whosoever believeth, whosoever liveth and believeth, the dead shall live again. The second thing he says is the living shall never die. Though we were dead, our Lord said, there is such a thing as death. There are a number of people who are dead alright. Dead in trespasses and sin, dead in the old daily routine, they are in a rut. But here is something -- hope comes. And our dreams can die, our ideals, but we remember the Bible says the soul that sineth, it shall die. The wages of sin is death. Now these are the things that we ought to worry about. Surely in the history of our civilization now when we see the invading army on every side. we can read the story of Babylon where they were weighed and found wanting. The moral fiber is disappearing as nations today, some of them have lost their soul. And we would know that Christ has the power to raise us up in this night time. We remember the words of our Lord when he said, today thou be with me in paradise. Not at some general resurrecthuntian Vins - Little girl Won Bely Brother had die was sick. But now it is light time because of has passed Mother told Friend il gries so much bort my away and is buried in a tomb. Hill overhand "Mother or Took When you bound where it is ? no store dan las

III. Morning Time. - Verse 39-44.

it is like one speaking, to call someone who is away.

The body of Lazarus which was to be called up was As I review these scriptures, Verse 38, coming near the asleep. And we usually speak in loud voice when we want to

grave, we find that Jesus groans. He is troubled. And of course he discovers the grave with the stone upon it. Vers 39 he says take away the stone He would have some of his servants remove it. And they step forward, and then there is the objection of Martha against doing this because he has been dead for four days. Lord, it is too late now. His body begins to rot, it is impossible now.

In Verse 41, there is the opening of the grave, We

will see the will of God being done here as he prays. And

he gives thanks unto God. Verse 33,38, he prays in answer

In Verse 40, he talks about faith again.

to humility. And in Verse 42, the assurance to the answer of this prayer. He gave thanks. Now the Pherisees said that he wrought his miracles in the power of the Devil. Contrary to this evidence, he addresses himself to God. He cried Lazarus come forth, in a loud voice, he spoke and it was done. The gates of Hell were opened and we find that this shows that the gates of Hell and the gates of death especially will not have any power over Him. Like soldiers mgaged in a battle with a shout, the soul of azarus was called back from a distance. It was moved and

know that there is another life. And that he said, he was the resurrection and the life. Do we believe this. This is the significance of sleep.

We think about dary Lones. There were those who prayed for her. And she became ill but it was to the glory of God. Her sufferings were very great toward the last but she did not murnur or complain. Neither did she talk against God. But she received his perfect love and there was light on the spiritual things and she had a vision of her hope in Him. And she was filled with delight. My raptured soul would here no longer stay, though Jordan's waves round me roll, fearless I launch away. They were singing that in her room and she repeated the words, fearless, fearless, while there was glory unspeakable upon her face. And then she was truly most beautiful when she whispered I walk through the valley in peace. And then pointing to each one that stood around her bed, she raised her hand as if to say, meet me in Heaven She then folded her hands on her breast, looked up, smiled, and dropped off to sleep. We could say glory to God and the lamb forever. Another safely landed.

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of there are will to want of watching for your train to come in

yard. The same God who thought Lazarus up the first time had made him over again. Actually Augusting said about the resurrection, it would be much earler for God than the creation of this world out of nothing. And this was the most convincing proof that Lazarus had come back because the friends and the enemies -- the friends rejoiced but the enemies went off to take counsel against him. Now the raising of Lazarus was a promise of more to come. It meant that not only the death of Christ but the beginning of the end of death was now being experienced and this was a beautiful thing. And this upset the funeral record in John. And we have a supper which was followed and given in honor of Jesus and these friends were there and Lazarus was a guest.

In the morning we discover that in Verse 35, Jesus wept. He understands our sorrows. He enters into them with us. Jesus did not weep over the death of Lazarus because he knew that in a few moments he would come forth from the birth. I think the reason he wept that day was not because of his death but rather because he felt it mecessary to bring him back to the earthly life again, where he might after supper suffer in all of this world a losing battle. Many times we look on death as something horrible but it may be a blessing and a joy to our heart when we think how we must face the bitter things in life.

Not now, but in the coming years, it may be in the better land. We'll read the meaning of our tears, and there, sometime, we'll understand. Well, this is a heart-breaking experience for the loved ones and sometimes we wonder why Jesus did not tell us more about Heaven. If we knew about the future life as Christ did. I am sure we would rejoice as one enters into this time. And there are no words perhaps that would convey the true picture of the next life if we knew about it. Could you tell a blind man and belp him understand what a sunset looks like. Could you take a man who had never been able to bear and tell him about great music, the sounds of it, etc. I think even Paul had this feeling, eye have not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love him. I have often why those came back from the grave did not tell their experiences. Perhaps there was a limitation of understanding that they could not get it over to us. But somehow, I think Christ has put a picture of Heaven in our hearts. And it is in our sight, and it is like morning time with us. Christ felt it necessary to bring back Lazarus, to open up the daylight, and take away the stone. And God's miracle took place. And he said, Father, I thank thee, that thou has heard me. What a marvelous lesson in prayer. We quickly come to ask how,

but how rarely do we come back to God to thank him for hearing, this workled on our estill and box ontopersunor acc

4 3 Verse 43, Lazarus come forth. Here is a great truth. Lazarus here was joined back and as Paul said flesh and blood shall not inherit the kingdom of Heaven. I Corinthians we find in chapter 15. Those who are on the other side can hear, those on this side when Jesus called Lazarus, he heard him. And he responded to him. Thou our bodies are different, we are the same people on the other side, that we are on this side. And here was Lazarus, he had died, he was still Lazarus. And he said, thy brother shall rise again. And he was their brother on this side, the same as he was on the other side. At home won may have someone and they may go to God's house in Glory, they'll be the same person on the authority of Jesus. We do not have the slightest doubt here but what we will know and love each other again. This fact disturbs some people to the point that they ask Christ if people shall marry several times, etc. He replied in the resurrection that neither will be marrying, nor given in marriage. But here marriage is a physical relationship and in Neaven we do not have these physical bodies This problem will not be regarded as one. But will be worked out by God and we can trust that he will have the right answer. The important thing for us is to