**Easter 2019** No Greater love…

**Intro.** - What does it mean to be a friend?

* Ever had someone you thought was your friend, only prove not to be?
* How many friends do you have that would die for you? Give up their lives, families, dreams for you.

**John 15:13**

**13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

**Romans 5:6–8**

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time **Christ died** for the ungodly.

7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 **but God shows his love for us** in that **while we were still sinners** *(enemies)*, **Christ died for us**.

**Why would He do that? Why, me being His enemy, would He treat me like His friend?**

**Because we are part of His story!**

**John 11:1–44**

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “**Lord, he whom you love** is ill.” (*phileo, as a friend, you don’t get it*)

4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “**This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”** *(Some of the things we go through have a deeper purpose)*

5 Now Jesus **loved** (*agape, this is how I love)* Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “**Let us go to Judea again.**” *(time to come to you again)*

8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” (*you’re worth the cost*)

9 Jesus answered, “**Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.**

**10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”** *(looking light)*

11 After saying these things, he said to them, “**Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him**.” *(there is no such thing as death to God)*

12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

14 **Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, (***thought you said this illness didn’t lead to death)*

**15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”** (*we need to experience something in order to believe something*)

16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” (*the doubter*, *superficial ambition)*

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. (*fate sealed?*)

18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. (*one confrontational, one patiently waiting*)

21 Martha said to Jesus, **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.** (*Our reaction is to blame*)

22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” (*Jesus has access to all*)

23 Jesus said to her, **“Your brother will rise again.”**

24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

***Daniel 12:2***

*2 And many of* ***those who sleep*** *in the dust of the earth shall awake,* ***some to everlasting life****, and* ***some to shame and everlasting contempt***.

***John 5:28–29***

*28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will* ***hear his voice*** *29 and come out, those who have done good to the* ***resurrection of life,*** *and those who have done evil to the* ***resurrection of judgment.***

25 Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,**

**26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”** (*do you believe?)*

27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” 28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” (*you realize He’s calling you today?)*

29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. (*some of us come quickly some later, all that matter is that you get to Him*)

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (***even the most devout struggle with questions)*

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. (***He sees our pain, and agonizes over it**enough to act on our behalf)*

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

35 Jesus wept. (*you move the heart of God to tears*)

36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” (*phileo, you don’t get it*)

37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”(*God why don’t you do things my way?)*

38 Then Jesus, **deeply moved again**, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. (*a place He would soon be)*

39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”

40 Jesus said to her, “**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”** (*This is for some of you right now, you’ve been dead too long*)

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this **on account of the people standing around**, **that they may believe** that you sent me.” (*God you want people to believe here today*)

43 When he had said these things, he **cried out with a loud voice**, “**Lazarus, come out**.” (*Jacob come out, Tim, Sarah, Ryan, Jose, Michael, Cindy, Ellen, Sam, Kevin, Lynn, Barbara, Vickie,* )

44 The **man who had died came out**, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “**Unbind him, and let him go.”** (*its time to unbind you*)

***1 Peter 1:3***

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be* ***born again*** *to a* ***living hope through the resurrection*** *of Jesus Christ from the dead****,***

**You’re more than a friend, You’re His child.**