

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
John 11:17-44 – I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

How often do you think about your own death? How do you feel about your own death?

Read John 11:1-44 in one go.

1. Read verses 21, 32 and 37. What do the words of Martha, Mary and the Jews all have in common about Jesus? About death? In what sense are their words true, and in what sense are they misguided? (Think also of the sign Jesus performed in 4:46-54).
2. How would you complete this sentence: Because Jesus loves me, he will ... ?
3. Mary and Martha say Jesus loves Lazarus in verse 3. The writer of John's gospel tells us Jesus loved Lazarus, Mary and Martha in verse 5. When Jesus weeps the Jewish friends conclude Jesus loved Lazarus in verse 36. Yet verse 6 tells us it is because of Jesus' love that he delayed coming. Because he delayed, how do Lazarus, Mary and Martha benefit from Jesus' love?
4. How does this fit into your understanding of the Lord Jesus' love for you? How does this fit into your understanding of prayers not being answered the way you expect?
5. Compare Martha's response to Jesus' question in verse 26-27 with her reaction to Jesus' instruction about opening the tomb in verses 38-39. In what sense then does she believe in Jesus? What does she still have to understand?
6. Why do you think Jesus is "deeply moved" (v 33, 38) and "greatly troubled" (v 33) and "weeps" (v35)?
7. Read verses 23-26 again. And then read verses 40-44. According to Jesus, what is the place of death in our lives? How is Jesus "the resurrection"? How is he "the life"? Is Jesus only speaking about the future?
8. How did Jesus display his glory here? How does it add substance to your belief in and understanding of Jesus? How does it change your commitment to him?
9. Eventually, Lazarus would die again. How do you think his approach to death, and his sisters responses, would be different as a result of Jesus' acts in this passage? Is that our reaction to death? Why/why not?
10. Should Christians grieve? Why/why not? (See also 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
11. What kind of evidence should there be in our lives that we believe Jesus words in verses 25-26? What changes about how you live? What changes about how we approach our death and the deaths of others?