



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

### **John 11:28-37 Study Hints for Discussion**

#### **[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#)**

are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. Why do you think it might be important to Martha and Mary to call Jesus “The Teacher”?**

In Jesus day, rabbis refused to teach women. Jesus taught everyone and Mary especially sat at Jesus feet in her home and listened to His teacher whenever He taught. Calling Jesus “**The Teacher**” probably also meant that Jesus was the supreme teacher above all others. For one reason, He taught with authority and not as the scribes.

#### **2. Why do you think Jesus stayed outside the village and Martha told Mary privately that the Teacher was calling for her?**

Jesus wanted to talk privately to both of them without a large crowd of mourners wailing and weeping so loud that they could not have a meaningful conversation about Jesus being the resurrection and the life and what that could mean to them. He wanted to give them true consolation.

### **3. Why do you think Jesus wept? Is weeping a sign of lack of faith?**

I think He wept to weep with those who weep, as Paul later advised Christians. I think He wept as He felt the sorrow of Mary and Martha, their family and friends. I think He wept at the knowledge that He would be bringing Lazarus back from the joys of heaven and being with God the Father. No, weeping is not a sign of a lack of faith; otherwise, Jesus would not have wept, and no one ever had as much faith as Jesus demonstrated.

### **4. What did Mary say that expressed her faith in Jesus?**

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

### **5. What did the crowd say that expressed their faith or lack of faith in Jesus? What was the foundation for their faith?**

“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” They knew Jesus had opened the eyes of the blind man (the man born blind).

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and [lgp@theiblf.com](mailto:lgp@theiblf.com).