

to seek another channel, and the former passage is left a natural cave. These places formed dwellings for the Horites and other early mountaineers. They were also used as stables, storehouses and granaries, but mostly as sepulchres. The valley of the Kidron is studded on both sides with ancient cave or rock-hewn tombs, because the rocky soil around Jerusalem almost prohibited interment after our custom. The natural cave was often enlarged, and a great circular

slab of stone, which rolled in a groove, formed the door. Sometimes a regular stone door, swinging on pivots, closed the entrance. The graves were niches cut in the walls of the cave, like shelves, on which the bodies were laid, the openings being closed with stone slabs. These tombs have frequently a kind of vestibule hewn in the rock, with pillars of rock supporting the rock roof, the front of which is ornamented by a frieze.

APPLICATION

Lord, if thou hadst been here, v. 32. Jesus had lingered two days, before going to the bereaved sisters at Bethany. But he knew, though so far removed, all that was going on in that distant home. His delay was part of the training of His disciples to do without His bodily presence. He would have them and us believe, that, though unseen, He sees all that is going on in every human life, and, at the right moment can bring the needed help and blessing. He will never fail those who trust His grace and power. These will always bring aid timely and sufficient.

If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died, v. 32. Seneca said to his friend Polybius, "Never complain of thy hard fortune, so long as Cæsar is thy friend". Would Let Lazarus was dead, but His great God Choose Friend and Lord, and Mary's Friend and Lord, also, was alive and with them. The suppressed reproach that is here offered to Christ was unfortunate and unworthy of Mary. She was unlike the woman who, when very sick, was asked whether she desired to die or live. She replied, "Whichever pleases God". "But if God should refer it to you," said one, "which would you choose?" "Ah well, I should refer it back to Him", she said. Thus it is that one obtains his will from God whose will is subjected to God. God is too wise to make a mistake and too kind to do us harm, and we may trust Him when He sends us strange and sore experiences. Repining or reproaching is not becoming in the friends of Christ.

Jesus wept, v. 35. Christ was comforting her by sympathizing with her. This shortest

verse in the Bible is like a window in Christ's heart. It is a wonderful comfort to people to know that Jesus cares, and weeps with us.

A little girl went to see a woman whose baby had died, and came back home and told her mother that she had been comforting the bereaved mother. Her mother asked her how; and she said, "I cried with her". It does us good, when we are in trouble, to have some one shed a sympathizing tear and feel with us. It brings us a sense of companionship in our loneliness. It puts another shoulder beneath the load we have to bear whose strength will not weary.

Believe...see the glory of God? v. 40. Some years ago a wonderful comet was visible in Eastern Canada, at an early hour after midnight. Those who sat up long enough in the winter night, were richly rewarded by the vision of its splendor, before it retreated into the abyss of space again to hide its glory for generations yet unborn. And those who look, will see the world of nature and the pages of history shining with the glory of the Creator and Ruler of the universe.

But because of the multitude which standeth round I said it (Rev. Ver.), v. 42. In a sermon on this incident, Mr. Spurgeon says:

"It would seem to all who knew you a very odd thing if you were seen loafing about a certain shop for an hour and a half one day in the week for twenty years, and yet never bought a penny's worth of goods. Why do you hang about the gospel shop, and yet purchase nothing? On your own showing you are a fool. I do not like using a hard