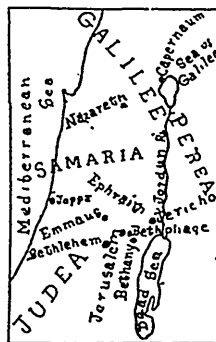


Christ himself, and over this life death has no power. **Shall never die**; because he has within him eternal life derived from union with Christ himself, and death cannot reach this life. **Believest thou this?** Jesus seeks to bring out Martha's confidence in himself. **The Christ, the Son of God.** Martha had come to a full belief in Jesus as the Messiah, and she would put no limit to his powers.

Vs. 28-42 tell of Jesus' interview with Mary, his weeping, his coming to the grave of Lazarus, his command to have the stone rolled away despite the remonstrance of Martha, and his prayer to God.

II. JESUS AND LAZARUS.—43, 44. Cried with a loud voice; "in a tone of victory, distinctly audible; in contrast to the usual mutterings of the sorcerers" (Century Bible). **Lazarus, come forth.** Jesus was resolved to have his friend back from the dead. **He . . . dead came forth**; literally, "out came the dead man." **Bound hand and foot.** Each member may have been swathed separately, as was the case with Egyptian mummies. **Napkin**; literally, "a sweat cloth." Here it means the cloth bound under the chin to keep the lower jaw from falling. **Loose him, and let him go.** He did not require support, and he would not like the gaze of the throng while in such a condition.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



On the southeast slope of the Mount of Olives, north of the Jericho road, about two miles from Jerusalem, stands to-day a small stone village, surrounded by gardens. This is BETHANY, the home of Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. The most noticeable feature is a tall square tower in the centre of the village. Under the building below is a tiny rock-cut chapel, which is shown as the tomb of Lazarus.

LESSON QUESTIONS

17-19 Where was Bethany? Who had died there? How long had he been buried? When did burial take place in the East? How long had Jesus been traveling

to Bethany? Who were Mary and Martha? Who had come to comfort them? How long did mourning last amongst the Jews? Where does Paul tell us to "weep with them that weep?" (Rom. 12:15.)

20-22 Who heard first of Jesus' coming? What did she do? What did Mary do? How did she express her grief? What hope had she? What two others had Jesus raised from the dead? (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 7:11-16.)

23, 24 What promise did Jesus make? What did this mean? Why did it not satisfy Martha? Quote a promise concerning "them . . . which sleep in Jesus." (1 Thess. 4:14.)

25-27 What did Jesus call himself? What did he mean by this? Why can death not destroy the believer's life? What did Martha come to believe?

43, 44 Describe the raising of Lazarus.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Would we be better off if there were no sickness or sorrow?
2. Is it right to mourn for the Christian dead?

A PRAYER

We are glad to-day, our heavenly Father, as we think of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We shudder as we think what life would be without the knowledge that he is living, but we rejoice as we consider that there is no reason for worry or anxiety, or despair. For Christ is risen! Show us how to yield ourselves to the risen Jesus, to live triumphantly, to think his thoughts, to do the work he has committed to us, putting aside sin and selfishness. In his name we ask all. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—*That the dead will rise again.*

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 89. *How is the word made effectual to salvation?* A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

The Question on Missions—2. Why did Dr. Margaret MacKellar go to Neemuch? Neemuch is the most northerly of our church's mission stations in Central India, and is the centre of a big, fertile, populous district. Dr. MacKellar was the pioneer medical missionary there, when she went 25 years ago to open a dispensary for women.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What promise did Jesus make to Martha, and what did it mean?

2. Why is it certain that Christians will rise from the dead?

3. How did Jesus raise Lazarus?

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