

John 11:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Analysis

Many Jews came to comfort Martha and Mary, demonstrating the family's social standing and the Jewish custom of mourning. The Greek verb suggests continuous action—they kept coming. This gathering becomes an audience for the miracle, providing numerous witnesses from Jerusalem itself. Their presence fulfills divine purpose: they would testify to religious leaders about what they witnessed. Even mourning customs serve God's sovereign plan.

Historical Context

Jewish mourning tradition required friends to visit the bereaved, especially during the first week. Formal consolation involved sitting with the grieving, often in silence, sharing their sorrow.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do ordinary social customs serve extraordinary divine purposes?

2. What does the community's support teach about the importance of presence in grief?
3. In what ways can we be faithful witnesses to God's work in others' suffering?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πολλοὶ	ἐκ	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων	ἐληλύθεισαν	πρὸς	τὰς
And	many	of	G3588	the Jews	came	to	G3588
G2532	G4183	G1537		G2453	G2064	G4314	
περὶ	Μάρθαν	καὶ	Μαρίαν,	ἵνα	παραμυθῇσονται		
concerning	Martha	And	Mary	to	comfort		
G4012	G3136	G2532	G3137	G2443	G3888		
αὐτῶν	περὶ	τοῦ	ἀδελφοῦ	αὐτῶν			
their	concerning	G3588	brother	their			
G846	G4012		G80	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Job 2:11 (Parallel theme): Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

John 11:31 (Parallel theme): The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Romans 12:15 (Parallel theme): Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (Parallel theme): Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

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