

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 the Jews came to τὰς
 G2532 G4183 G1537 G2458 G2064 G3588

 περὶ Μάρθαν καὶ Μαρίαν, ἵνα παραμυθήσωνται
 concerning Martha And Mary to comfort
 G4012 G3136 G2532 G3137 G2443 G3888

 αὐτῶν περὶ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ αὐτῶν
 their concerning brother their
 G846 G4012 G3588 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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