

John 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The mourners misinterpret Mary's swift departure, assuming she goes to weep at the tomb, a common mourning practice. Their mistaken assumption leads them to follow, inadvertently becoming witnesses to the miracle. This demonstrates divine providence—even misunderstanding serves God's purposes. Their presence ensures multiple Jerusalem witnesses to Lazarus' resurrection. God's sovereignty orchestrates circumstances so that even unintended actions fulfill His design.

Historical Context

Visiting the tomb to weep was customary Jewish mourning practice, especially during the first week. Professional mourners often accompanied families, and friends showed respect by joining tomb visits.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use even human misunderstanding to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does the mourners' unintended witness role teach about divine sovereignty?
3. In what ways might God be using your current circumstances for purposes beyond your knowledge?

Interlinear Text

τὸ οὖν Ἰουδαῖοι τὸ ὄντες μετ' αὐτῇ ἐν τὸ
which then The Jews which were with her in which
G3588 G3767 G2453 G3588 G5607 G3326 G846 G1722 G3588

οἰκία καὶ παραμυθούμενοι αὐτῇ ἰδόντες τὸ
the house and comforted her when they saw which
G3614 G2532 G3888 G846 G1492 G3588

Μαρίαν, ὅτι ταχέως ἀνέστη καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἠκολούθησαν
Mary that hastily she rose up and went out followed
G3137 G3754 G5030 G450 G2532 G1831 G190

αὐτῇ λέγοντες, ὅτι ὑπάγει εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον ἵνα
her saying that She goeth unto which the grave to
G846 G3004 G3754 G5217 G1519 G3588 G3419 G2443

κλαύση ἐκεῖ
weep there
G2799 G1563

Additional Cross-References

John 11:19 (Parallel theme): And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

