

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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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

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

οἰκίᾳ καὶ παραμυθούμενοι αὐτῇ ιδόντες τὸ<sup>τὸ</sup>  
**the house** **and** **comforted** **her** **when they saw** **which**  
G3614 G2532 G3888 G846 G1492 G3588

Μαρίαν, ὅτι ταχέως ἀνέστη καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἡκολούθησαν  
**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<sup>τὸ</sup>  
**her** **saying** **that** **She goeth** **unto** **which** **the grave** **to**  
G846 G3004 G3754 G5217 G1519 G3588 G3419 G2443

κλαύσῃ ἐκεῖ  
**weep** **there**  
G2799 G1563

## Additional Cross-References

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

