

John 11:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Analysis

Jesus commands the stone's removal, requiring human cooperation in divine miracle. Martha's protest about decay (four days dead) reflects natural human concerns. Her 'Lord' address shows respect despite objection. The Greek 'ozei' (stinks) is blunt—she expects putrefaction's odor. Martha's practical concern contrasts her earlier faith confession (v. 27), revealing how confession and trust coexist with doubt. Jesus will work despite human weakness and natural decay. Nothing is too far gone for resurrection power.

Historical Context

Four days in Palestinian climate would indeed produce decay and odor. Martha's concern was medically and practically sound, making Jesus' command seem irrational without resurrection faith.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command to remove the stone teach about human cooperation with divine power?
2. What does Martha's honest practical concern teach about the coexistence of faith and doubt?
3. What 'too far gone' situations in your life need resurrection faith?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ἄρατε	τὸν	λίθον	λέγει	αὐτῷ	ἡ
said	G3588	Jesus	Take ye away	G3588	the stone	said	unto him	G3588
G3004		G2424	G142		G3037	G3004	G846	
ἀδελφὴ	τοῦ	τεθνηκότος	Μάρθα	Κύριε	ἤδη			
the sister	G3588	of him that was dead	Martha	Lord	by this time			
G79		G2348	G3136	G2962	G2235			
ὅζει	τεταρταῖος	γάρ	ἐστίν					
he stinketh	dead four days	for	he hath been					
G3605	G5066	G1063	G2076					

Additional Cross-References

John 11:17 (References Jesus): Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.