

# 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

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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

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λέγει ὁ Ἰησοῦς Ἐρατε τὸν λίθον λέγει αὐτῷ ἡ  
said G3588 Jesus Take ye away G3588 the stone said G3004 unto him G3588  
G3004 G2424 G142 G3037 G3004 G846

ἀδελφὴ τοῦ τεθνηκότος Μάρθα Κύριε ἥδη  
the sister G3588 of him that was dead Martha Lord by this time  
G79 G2348 G3136 G2962 G2235

ὅζει τεταρταῖος γάρ ἐστιν  
he stinketh dead four days for he hath been  
G3605 G5066 G1063 G2076

## Additional Cross-References

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

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