

On the Sunday before the Saturday of Lazarus let us reflect on this friend of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 11, we learn of the death of Lazarus as he was sick. Jesus upon hearing this said, "This sickness will not end in death." When he came to the home of Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, he had been dead for four days. Martha rebuked Jesus that if He had been present earlier, Lazarus wouldn't have died.

When Jesus went to where Lazarus was laid, we find in Scripture two powerful words, "Jesus wept."

Why did Jesus weep? He loved his friend Lazarus, but was he weeping for him? Maybe he was weeping at the disbelief of his two sisters that He could now help? He was fully human and fully divine, so was it compassion, sympathy or sorrow for all of mankind? As Saint Leo the Great said about this passage, "In his humanity Jesus wept for Lazarus; in his divinity he raised him from the dead;" in both, he did so out of love!

Dearest ones, is Christ Jesus our friend? If He is our friend, and He wept for Lazarus at his death, does He not do so for us when we choose not to follow Him? If we choose to turn our backs on God in our sin, does He not also weep for us? Help us? Guide us? Indeed! For as His friends, out of love, compassion and mercy, He wants us to be one with Him.

Will we hear the voice of our Lord when He tells us to "come out" of our sin and follow Him? Will He then say to us, "take off the grave clothes" as He told the onlookers to do for Lazarus?

Let us reflect on our relationship with Christ Jesus as we prepare to follow Him through Holy Week remembering that with God all things are possible! As he brought Lazarus back from the dead after four days, we too, through our choices, His friendship, can become one with Him, and be given eternal life with He who should be given all honor, worship and glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.