



Hanover United Methodist Church

Sunday March 29, 2020

Message Brief

When Jesus Runs Late

Story from the Gospel of John Chapter 11

Good Morning! It is a beautiful morning that the Lord has made! Let's rejoice and be glad in it, even if it's at home, 'social distancing', but know, there's no distance between us and our Lord!

He sees, cares, and has everything under control!

We see this in John 11. Jesus friend Lazarus is sick, dying, and his sisters Mary and Martha send word to Jesus, who's less than two miles away. So, Jesus stays two more days. Two more days!!! What is Jesus doing? His friend is dying! He says that it's ok. He is going to 'fall asleep' but it's ok. OK??? Really??? Really. But let's not skip to the end! Jesus finally starts back toward his friend's house. Martha, sister of the now deceased friend of Jesus, Lazarus, runs out to Jesus before he even gets to the house to let Jesus know (like Jesus doesn't already know?!!) that Lazarus died, and he should have been there! He's too late! Where the heavens were you?!! Jesus lets her know that believing in him means you never really die, and that he still has the power to raise him from the dead. Martha says- I believe! Jesus goes on, gets the same treatment from Lazarus' other sister, Mary- 'If you would have been here, he wouldn't have died!!!' Jesus sees the grief and is moved to tears. Yes, Jesus cares, and is moved by our sorrow, and just because we do not see and understand the big picture does not mean that things are out of (his) control. Jesus asks, 'where did you put him?' Surely Jesus knew. But if everyone goes together to 'show' Jesus, then they all get to see what he can do! Jesus says, roll that stone away from the grave cave. Martha reminds Jesus that her brother has been dead for four days and by this time has a bad odor. But they complied. Jesus commands Lazarus to come out. He does! Lazarus, four days dead, resurrects to life! Many see and believe.

Jesus really is in control. He holds the keys to life and death. And he's not late, he's always on time. He saves. Take heart, Jesus is Lord!

May the Lord bless and keep you,
Shining the everlasting light of God upon you,
And give you rest.

Filled with joy to be your pastor,

Pastor Harley