

- To Those Who Will Respond:
- Like Mary:
- To His Call!

4. And We Can See From These Verses:

- Three More Ways:
 - Jesus Offers His Comfort:
 - To Us - Just Like He Did:
 - For Mary!
 - Jesus Offers His Comfort:
 - Through:
 - His Call, His Compassion, And His Crying!
 - His Call To Us!
 - His Compassion For Us! And:
 - His Crying With Us!
- So, Let's Look At How:
 - Jesus Can Comfort Us:
 - In Our Times Of Grief & Sorrow!

* First - Jesus Offers His Comfort:

1. ***Through His Call To Us!***

- Just Like He Called Mary:
 - To Come To Him:
 - So That She Might Find Some Relief:
 - For Her Grief:
 - Over The Loss Of Her Brother!
 - And This Is Why:
 - In 11:28 - Martha Becomes Jesus' Messenger:
 - To Her Sister - As We Read:
 - "And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee!"
 - There Is So Much Tenderness:
 - In These Verses - And It All Starts With:
 - Martha's Tenderness:
 - Toward Her Sister:
 - As She Tells Her About Jesus' Coming:
 - "Secretly" & Privately!
 - Perhaps Through Another Messenger:
 - But - More Than Likely:
 - With A Whisper In Her Ear!
 - But - Either Way - Martha Knew That:
 - Jesus Had A Special Relationship:
 - With Mary - Just As He Had:
 - A Special Relationship:
 - With Her & Her Brother!
 - But - To Mary - Jesus' Title:
 - Of "Teacher" - Appears To Have:
 - Some Special Significance!
 - Especially When We Are Told:
 - In Luke 10:39 - That Mary Is The One Who:
 - "Sat At Jesus' Feet, And Heard His Word!"
 - And So - The Comfort Martha Had Just Received:
 - From Jesus - She Wanted:
 - Her Sister To Experience:
 - As Well!
 - Personally & Privately:
 - With Her Teacher!
 - And - How Does Mary Respond?
 - She Comes To His Call!
 - As We See In:
 - 11:29 - "As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him!"

- So - As Soon As Mary Heard:
 - That Jesus Was Calling For Her:
 - She Hurried To Him!
 - Likely Following Her Sister:
 - To The Same Place We Are Told About In 11:30!
 - “Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him!”
 - But - So Much For A Private, Personal Meeting With Jesus!
 - Because Of What We Find In 11:31 - “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!”
- Now - It Is Clear From This That:
 - Mary Was Experiencing:
 - Deep Grief & Sorrow:
 - Over The Loss Of Her Brother!
 - Crying & Weeping Now:
 - For Four Days & Even Longer!
 - Although Martha’s Grief:
 - May Have Been Just As Deep:
 - As Mary’s - It Seems That Mary:
 - Wore Her Emotions On Her Sleeves A Bit More:
 - Than Her Sister!
 - And So - As She Grieved:
 - The People Grieved With Her!
 - As Mary Wept:
 - The People Wept With Her!
 - And - The Crowd Of Jews:
 - Wanted To Be There For Her:
 - Wherever She Might Be!
 - And Yet - Mary Knew That:
 - The Comfort:
 - Of Her People - Was Nothing Like:
 - The Comfort:
 - Of Jesus - And What He Could Offer!
 - And So - Instead Of Going:
 - One Direction - To The Tomb Of Her Brother:
 - She Goes Off In Another Direction:
 - To Where Jesus Was!
 - All Because:
 - She Heard Jesus’ Call!
 - “Master Is Come, And Callesth For Thee!”
 - And So - She Came To Him!
- This Is Still How:
 - Jesus’ Offers His Comfort:
 - To Us - In Our Sorrow & Grief!
 - He Calls Us Unto:
 - Himself - So That We Might Find Our Hope & Help In Him!
 - If You Are An Unbeliever:
 - And Start To Feel The Pressures:
 - Of Sin & Shame:
 - In Your Own Heart:
 - Through The Convicting Work Of The Holy Spirit!
 - And - You Start To Feel:
 - Broken & Contrite:
 - Because Of Your Sinfulness:
 - Before A Holy God!
 - Listen To Jesus’ Call Of Comfort!
 - Matthew 11:28-29 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls!”
 - Jesus Offers His Comfort:

- To Sinners - Through His:
 - Call Of Grace!
- But - If You Are A Believer:
 - Like Mary Was:
 - Jesus Still Calls For You:
 - So That You Might Find Your Comfort In Him:
 - No Matter What Grief Or Sorrow You Face!
 - When You Lose A Loved One:
 - Like Mary Did!
 - Or - When You Are Discouraged:
 - And Despondent:
 - For Any Reason!
 - Like We All So Often Are!
 - Jesus Offers His Comfort:
 - To His Sorrowing Saints:
 - Through His Call!
 - So Now - Hear His Call!
 - And Heed It! And:
 - Hurry To Him!
 - Just Like Mary!
 - Because - You Too:
 - Can Find "Rest Unto Your Souls!"
 - Jesus Offers His Comfort:
 - Through His Call To Us!
 - But Then - Second - We Can Also See That Jesus Offers His Comfort:

2. *Through His Compassion For Us!*

- In Psalm 86:15 - King David:
 - Says This About God:
 - "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth!"
 - This Is Part Of The Very Nature Of God!
 - He Is "A God Full Of Compassion!"
 - And - What God Is:
 - Jesus Is - Because:
 - Jesus Is God!
 - But - Since Jesus Is:
 - God In The Flesh:
 - We Can See His Compassion:
 - In Real, Human Ways!
 - And So - The Setting For Jesus' Compassion:
 - Is Set For Us When:
 - In 11:32 - Mary Comes To Jesus!
 - "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died!"
 - When Mary Meets Jesus:
 - In The Same Place Her Sister Did:
 - Her Focus Is All On Him!
 - And This Is Emphasized In This Verse!
 - Because - When Mary Came:
 - Where Jesus Was:
 - She "Saw Him!"
 - With Her Own Eyes!
 - And - What A Familiar Sight:
 - To Behold - For Her Sore & Tear-Soaked Eyes!
 - She Saw His Face & Form:
 - As She Had So Many Times Before!
 - And - She Knew Him!
 - That He Was The One:
 - Whom Her Soul Loved!

- And - When Mary Saw Him:
 - We Are Told That:
 - She Then “Fell Down At His Feet!”
 - Which Was A Familiar Place:
 - For Her!
 - In The Three Places:
 - Where We Read About Mary:
 - In The Gospels:
 - She Is Always At The Feet Of Jesus!
 - But This Time:
 - She “Fell” To That Place!
 - With Her Hands & Heart:
 - Stretched Out To Jesus!
- And - When Mary Fell Down:
 - Before Jesus - She Then:
 - Spoke To Him - Using Nearly:
 - The Same Words That:
 - Her Sister Did Just Minutes Before!
 - “Lord, If Thou Hadst Been Here, My Brother Had Not Died!”
 - And - Just Like Her Sister:
 - We Must Not See This As Words Of Complaint:
 - But Confidence In The Care & Compassion Of The Lord!
- And - It Was Then:
 - That Jesus Moved By:
 - The Scene All Around Him!
 - And Reveals That He Himself:
 - Is “Full Of Compassion!”
- What A Powerful Sight:
 - Jesus Saw - When:
 - In 11:33 - We Are Told That:
 - “When Jesus Therefore Saw Her Weeping!”
 - Jesus Saw The Tears:
 - Flowing From The Eyes:
 - Of His Dear Friend & Follower, Mary:
 - Laying Just Before Him:
 - At His Feet!
- What A Penetrating Sound:
 - Jesus Heard - When:
 - In 11:33 - We Are Also Told About:
 - “The Jews Also Weeping Which Came With Her!”
 - So - Jesus Heard The Crying:
 - From The Crowd Of Jews:
 - All Around Him
- What A Profound & Deep Sorrow:
 - Jesus Clearly Felt:
 - When - Also In 11:33:
 - Jesus Is Moved To The Point That:
 - “He Groaned In The Spirit, And Was Troubled!”
 - Here - We Find Two Emotional Reactions:
 - By Jesus - To The Emotional Scene:
 - All Around Him!
 - He “Groaned In The Spirit” - In:
 - Deep Sorrow! And:
 - He “Was Troubled” - In:
 - Deep Sympathy:
 - With Those Around Him!
- Now - The Sorrow Of Jesus:
 - Went Even Deeper:
 - Than Just A Natural, Human Sorrow:
 - Because Of How He “Groaned In The Spirit!”

- The Word Translated “Groan” Here:
 - Has The Sense Of:
 - Displeasure, Indignation & Even Anger!

- Which Means That - To Jesus:
 - In All That He Saw & Felt Going On:
 - Something Was Not Right!
 - Certainly - It Was:
 - Right & Even Natural:
 - For Them To Be Weeping Over The Death Of Lazarus!
 - But - What Was Not:
 - Right Or Natural:
 - Was Death To Begin With!
 - And - All That Caused His Death! Sin & Satan!
 - So - Jesus “Groaned In The Spirit” - Most Likely Because Of:
 - “The Presence Of Sickness And Death, And The Havoc They Wrought In Human Life!”
(Bruce)
 - The Sting Of Death Had Struck Again - And:
 - Jesus Was Grieved About It & Groaned About It!

- But Then - We See That - The Sympathy Of Jesus:
 - Went Even Deeper:
 - Than Just A Natural & Human Sympathy:
 - Because Of How He “Was Troubled!”
 - Or - Could Also Be Translated:
 - “He Troubled Himself!”
 - That Is - He Permitted:
 - All The Sorrow Without:
 - To Reach His Spirit Within:
 - To The Point That His Own Heart Broke For Those Who Were:
 - Struggling With Sorrow All Around Him!
 - Jesus “Troubled Himself!”
 - So That He Might:
 - Sorrow With Those:
 - Who Sorrowed! - But - What Jesus Did There:

- Didn’t He Do His Whole Life?
 - Though The Expression In This Verse:
 - Does Not Exactly Mean The Same Thing:
 - As The Expression We Use:
 - When We Tell Someone To Not “Trouble Yourself!”
 - Yet - In Many Respects:
 - It Is The Same!

- After All - When Jesus Died On The Cross:
 - Didn’t He “Trouble Himself” - In Order To:
 - Pay The Price For Our Sins?

- And - As Jesus Lived His Life In This World:
 - Didn’t He “Trouble Himself” With:
 - The Troubles Of Man!
 - Touching & Helping & Healing:
 - Countless Individuals!

- And - When Jesus Was Born In Bethlehem:
 - Didn’t He “Trouble Himself” With:
 - “The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!”
 - So That He Might Become:
 - Our Great High Priest?

- Jesus Embarked On:
 - His Entire Life & Ministry Of Jesus:
 - Because He “Troubled Himself” With:
 - Us & Our Needs!
 - And - That’s What He Does Here As Well!
 - He “Troubled Himself” With:

- Our Sorrows!
- And Praise God He Did!
- Because - His Compassion:
 - Is The Greatest Comfort:
 - To Our Souls:
 - In Times Of Sorrow!
 - And So - Likely With A Tremor:
 - In His Voice:
 - In 11:34 - Jesus "Said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see!"
 - So - Jesus Offers His Comfort:
 - Through His Call To Us!
 - Through His Compassion For Us!
 - And Then - We See His Comfort:

3. ***Through His Crying With Us!***

- Because - In 11:35 - We Come To:
 - One Of The Shortest Verses In The Entire Bible:
 - "Jesus Wept!"
 - Out Of His:
 - Deep Sorrow & Sympathy:
 - Jesus Cried With Real Tears!
 - The Tears Of Jesus:
 - Flowed From His Eyes:
 - Wet His Cheeks:
 - Pooled Around His Lips:
 - And then Dropped Upon The Very Path:
 - On Which He Walked!
 - Leaving A "Trail Of Tears" - As Jesus:
 - Made His Way To:
 - The Tomb Of His Dear Friend, Lazarus!
 - Now - This Is The Only Place:
 - Where Jesus Is Said To Weep:
 - And To Cry With Tears!
 - In Fact - The Word Used For Jesus Weeping:
 - Is Unique & Different Than:
 - The Words Used For Everyone Else Weeping!
 - Perhaps This Is To Show That:
 - Even Though Jesus Wept:
 - He Did So In A Different Way:
 - Than We Do!
 - When Jesus Wept:
 - It Was Not Uncontrollable - Nor:
 - Was It Unconsoled!
 - Because He Knew The True Solution To Sorrow & Grief!
- And - The Crying Of Jesus:
 - Is Also A Comfort To Us!
 - Along With:
 - His Call To Us & His Compassion For Us!
 - Because It Shows Us Once Again:
 - That - "We Have Not An High Priest Which Cannot Be Touched With The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!" (Hebrews 4:15)
 - Because - He Does Feel Them!
 - Because - He Felt Them!
 - The Son Of God Truly Was:
 - "A Man Of Sorrows, And Acquainted With Grief!" (Isaiah 53:3)
 - And John 11:35 Is Proof Of This!
 - "Jesus Wept!"
 - And - Because He Wept With Us & For Us:
 - We Can Know Of His Love For Us!

- Even As We Are Told In:
 - 11:36 - “Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!”
- The Tears Of Jesus:
 - Revealed The Tenderness Of Jesus!
 - His Crying:
 - Proves His Love!

Conclusion:

1. But - What A Sight To See:
 - For Those Of Us Who Know The Rest Of The Story!
 - Even As Life:
 - Was About To Wake The Dead!
 - Even As Hope:
 - Was About To Break The Hopelessness!
 - Even As Light:
 - Was About To Shine Into The Darkness:
 - Of Lazarus Tomb!
 - Jesus Still Went Forth:
 - Weeping!
 - Because He Loved Him!
 - Because He Loved Them!
 - Because He Loved Us!
2. And Yet - There Were Some:
 - Who Still Were Not Moved:
 - By Jesus & His Comfort!
 - Instead - They Wondered:
 - 11:37 - “Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?”
 - Don't Disregard - And:
 - Don't Doubt:
 - The Great Comfort:
 - That Jesus Offers & Can Provide:
 - To You!
 - In Times Of Sorrow & Grief!
3. Jesus Can Comfort You:
 - Because:
 - He Himself:
 - Calls Out To You!
 - Has Compassion For You! And Even:
 - Cried With & For You!
 - So Now - Be Like Mary!
 - Hear Him & Hurry To Him!
 - With Whatever Burden You Are Carrying:
 - This Very Day!

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