

A TIME FOR LIGHTS

Connie Thiessen

December 10

There must be some mistake! The topic I was given was "A Time For Lights" but when I looked up the passage and saw the heading "The death of Lazarus" it did not seem to make sense. What did light have to do with the death of Lazarus??

I dread winter. My favorite season is spring, when the days are warm and new life appears. Winter is cold, and dark! But the saving grace is Christmas. There is beauty in the lights that abound and the glow from a fireplace can make everything feel cozy. Even the snow can look inviting when it sparkles in the sun. Light is very important for those of us that struggle to fight off depression as the days are short and darkness sets in.

Please read John 11:1-14

In this passage Jesus said there is danger of stumbling in the dark and safety in the light. I felt that danger as I experienced one of the darkest days of my life about 6 months ago.

The dreaded phone call came while I was at work. The nurse told me that my Dad's health was declining and I should come to see him. My heart sank. I phoned my brother and told him to check in on Dad and I would be there as soon as I could. I had not been able to visit my Dad for over a month because of Covid-19. During my hour drive I pleaded with God to let him live until I could say goodbye. Surely, He would allow that.

I entered the facility and was told that I could not go up to Dad's room - only one person allowed at a time! My brother appeared after what seemed like an eternity and told me, "Dad's gone." I instantly felt alone, standing there weeping, with my brother not able to even put his arm around me because of the restrictions.

To be honest, I was angry with God. After all this time, couldn't He have just allowed Dad to live a few more minutes so that I could say goodbye?!

I think Mary and Martha were probably angry with Jesus too. He took His time getting to Bethany. They had sent word for Him to come and be with them during this painful time and do something about it.

But no, He waited.

A verse from John 8 came to my mind. "Jesus said to the people, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'"

There is a happy ending. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The Light gave him life.

This same Light has given my Dad life too. I just can't see it yet. But I know it is true. I look forward to seeing him again some day.

My prayer for you is that you will be reminded of one important thing when you see the beautiful lights during this Advent season. Jesus came to us as the Light of the world. May you experience the hope and peace that only He can give.