

**DAY 28**

Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. (John 11:6)

~~ *His genuine love* ~~

This miraculous story begins with the following declaration: “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus” (v.5). It is as if God were teaching us that at the very heart and foundation of all His dealings with us, no matter how dark and mysterious they may be, we must dare to believe in and affirm His infinite, unmerited, and unchanging love. Yet love permits pain to occur.

Mary and Martha never doubted that Jesus would quickly avert every obstacle to keep their brother from death, “yet ... He stayed where He was two more days.”

What a startling word: “Yet”! Jesus refrained from going not because He did not love them but because He did love them. Anything less than infinite love would have rushed instantly to the relief of those beloved and troubled hearts, in an effort to end their grief, and no cause their sorrow and pain to flee.

Only the power of divine love could have held back the spontaneity of the Savior’s tender-heartedness until the angel of pain had finished his work. Who can estimate the great debt we owe to suffering and pain? If not for them, we would have little capacity for many of the great virtues of the Christian life. Where would our faith be if not for the trials that test it; or patience, without anything to endure or experience and without tribulations to develop it? (LC – Aug. 10)

~~~ *Pray* ~~~

Abba Father,

Please help us to learn endurance so that we can have true joy and peace in any circumstance. It is not because we are strong, but because of your steadfast love, in which we have confidence. Thank you for the trials we have to go through. We know it is Your love.