

## EXCUSES

Regret

Martha & Mary

John 11:20 When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, **if only** you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

28 Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you."

29 So Mary immediately went to him.

30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him.

31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there.

32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, **if only** you had been here, my brother would not have died."

How To Deal With Regret

2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

\_\_\_\_\_ It Behind

Philippians 3:13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

\_\_\_\_\_ From The Past

Galatians 6:4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

Accept The \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

\_\_\_\_\_ In The Present

2 Samuel 12:19 When David saw them whispering, he realized what had happened. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

20 Then David got up from the ground, washed himself, put on lotions, and changed his clothes. He went to the Tabernacle and worshiped the Lord. After that, he returned to the palace and was served food and ate.

21 His advisers were amazed. "We don't understand you," they told him. "While the child was still living, you wept and refused to eat. But now that the child is dead, you have stopped your mourning and are eating again."

22 David replied, "I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I said, 'Perhaps the Lord will be gracious to me and let the child live.'

23 But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me."

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ Sight Of God

John 11:39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

8 Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

It Is Never Too \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we live by believing and not by seeing.

Hebrews 11:1 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Romans 15:13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.