

Hope on a Rope

Does your life seem to be ... *Up in the air?*

If so...it is time for a shift!

There is a **SHIFT** key on your computer.

It makes your characters from lower to upper... it takes you to a NEW dimension

Today... I want to talk to you about the **TIGHT ROPE** that your life is on!!

Mary and Martha's lives were all **UP IN THE AIR!!**

- Their brother had just died...
- They were confused about his death
- His best friend **was a healer**...but **didn't** bother to show up to help
- He didn't even attend the funeral...
- And on the **4th day** He decided to show up
- **After** he was buried and the guest had all left
- They were all **UP IN THE AIR**...when he got there!!

John 11:19-38 - NKJV

¹⁹ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰ Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy

²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The Teacher has come and is calling for you.” ²⁹ As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was^[a] in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”^[b]

³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴ And He said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

³⁷ And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

How would you act?

- Your brothers just died - **His best friend** could have prevented it
- But **he didn't...** not only that...he didn't even come to the funeral.
- Everyone wants to be **MAD** at Mary and Martha... but ***how would you act?***
- They were **ALL up in the air** when He did arrive.

They were on their **TIGHT ROPE** ...just **trying to hang on!!!**

There are some things you must know in order to Walk on your tight rope....

1. Have someone help you on your tight rope

➤ **Who** is going to help me... on my tight rope... ???

➤ **Who** is going to help you... on your tight rope???

What a friend ...we have in Jesus !!!!

Mary and Martha had each other...but they were still UP IN THE AIR...

They Needed JESUS!!!

➤ They couldn't do it by themselves!!

2. Before you start trying to walk...learn how to stand...by putting one foot in front of the other

You may be broke up this year...

You may not have a job....but put one foot in front of the other

Psalm 23:4 - NKJV

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.....

I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

With every stage of life, even the ones we think we've prepared for, comes a degree of uncertainty that can **unravel us**.

Even in the midst of uncertain circumstances, **we can always be certain of God**

- Certain that **He will be with us**
- Certain that **He will walk with us** through every difficult step
- Certain that as we leave the details of our lives to Him
- **We will at many times be uncertain** about **how He will work it all out**
- But certain that **He will**.
- It really comes down to **trusting God with our lives.**

3. Don't look down

Where am I going to look...

Psalm 121:1 – NIV - *God the Help of Those Who Seek Him*

121 ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

God will use what is in front of you to *destroy what is behind you!*

God will allow your FUTURE...to DESTROY your PAST

4. **Best way to keep your balance ...hold something in your hand...**

- What are you holding --- BIBLE????

Philippians 4:19 - NKJV

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- When your momma and daddy has forsaken you...
- The Lord will take you up...
- What are you holding in your hand????

Isaiah 54:17 - NKJV

¹⁷ No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn.

This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness *is* from Me," Says the LORD.

5. **Raise the rope gradually and Go higher**

If you start off low, and you learn how to walk while you are low...when God starts lifting you...

If you learn to walk ...low...when God lifts you...you will be alright...

- I am going **HIGHER**
- I am Going **higher**
- The Best...***is yet to come***...

How you gonna walk your tight rope?

- 2000 years ago someone else walked a tight rope
- **God said...** I need someone to go redeem man...
- **Jesus** ...came through a virgin Mary...
- **Walked** on earth...
- **Healed** the sick...
- **Opened** blinded eyes

He went to Calvary... he was on his Tight rope...

- They hung him high... stretched him wide...
- He **stayed** on his tight rope...
- with **thorns** on **his head**,
- with blood dripping from his head...
- **he stayed on his tight rope**
- Took him to **Josephs tomb...**
- He stayed there all day Friday...
- all day Saturday...
- **but** on Sunday morning ...
- **he stepped out with all power...**
- ***He walked his tight rope!***

Jesus walked his tight rope...because he walked his tight rope...*I believe you can make it...*

When I think about how the Lord has brought me out...

I gotta praise...I gotta praise.. and *I got to get it out*

When I think about Jesus and how he brought me out ...I got so much *to shout about...*

3 Things you have do ...before God will do his one thing:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - KJV

⁵ **Trust in the Lord** with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.**

⁶ In all thy ways **acknowledge him**, and he shall direct thy paths.

Close: LET me finish the story of Mary and Martha...UP IN THE AIR!!

John 11:39-44 - NKJV

³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. ^[a] And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."

⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Today...

- I command what is holding you back
- **To be LOOSED!!!**
- Your tight rope to **come DOWN...**
- **Jesus** is on the ROPE with you!
- He will help you to cross it!!

Old Hymn... I got 1 MORE river to cross...

Chorus:

One more **river to cross**, one more **mountain to climb**,
one more **valley that I got to go through** leaving my troubles behind,
one more battle with the devil and I know he'll understand,
I'm going through with Jesus hallelujah,
holding to his nail scarred hand.

- King Jesus is right over there... He's gonna help you to cross
- I got one more River...to cross!!

