

Jesus is informed that Lazarus, whom he loves, is sick. How does Jesus respond to the news? He waits around for a couple of days. Then he journeys to see his sick friend. At this point, Lazarus is dead. Jesus' behavior is puzzling, even confusing. Jesus stays where he is and appears to be unconcerned. We are not sure how to make sense of his behavior. Nor do we have any idea of what Jesus was feeling.

When we hear that someone we love is sick, dying or has died, we are vulnerable. We never know how we will respond. Some of us might panic, cry, or get busy. Others may become angry, scream or go inward and become very quiet. Still others may grow numb, become righteous, or seek to connect with the family.

We don't know how we are going to respond. We don't know how others will respond. There are a variety of ways and we do the best we can in each situation.

My sisters and brothers: Be gentle and accepting toward ourselves and others as we respond to difficult circumstances.