



NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: April 20, 2026

Scripture: [John 11: 17-44](#)

Title: Why Bother?

Author: Esther Baird

Read: [John 11: 17-44](#)

Devotional:

Maybe you've wrestled with this deep and abiding question: why bother making your bed if you're just going to sleep in it again that night?

As a mom, I think it's a fair question, and quite honestly, I have no good answer. I'm on team "Why bother?" We all know what's coming... we're just going to sleep in it again that night. So why do it? So it looks nice? Who's even looking at my bedroom?

Why bother doing something that's just going to be undone?

It may feel ridiculous to compare bed-making to our passage today about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, except there's a similar question underneath it: why bother? Why bring Lazarus back to life if he was just going to die again? And if Lazarus, why not others? Jesus only raised three people back to life during his ministry (not including himself) - - why?

Like all of Jesus' actions, he was pointing them to the larger truth and plan for his kingdom.

From the very beginning, in Genesis 3:15, God promised that one day an offspring would crush the serpent and end the curse of sin and death. Death was never part of God's original design. We were not created for death.

And yet, because of because of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God, and our continued rebellion through all of humanity, the curse of death is very real.

But it's not ok.



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Devotional cont.

And when Jesus came to Mary and Martha, knowing full well that Lazarus was dead and further, that he was going to raise him up, he grieved with them. He wept with Mary. Why, when he knew what he was about to do? Because death is never ok. It's always wrong, it's always sad, it's always against everything in our design as image bearers of God.

And we feel that.

But Jesus needed Mary and Martha to see the greater truth and he used the loss of their brother - - his friend - - to show them. He grieved but also delivered the words that spelled out the beginning of the end of death for all time. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lies and believes in me shall never die."

Jesus went on to raise Lazarus. Lazarus hung out with Jesus later that week on his way to Passover, and for all we know he lived for a really long time. But he did eventually die. Again.

Jesus went on to Jerusalem to be put on trial, crucified and buried. He also died. But what he told them was true. He was and IS the resurrection. He was and IS the life. And when Jesus rose, he stayed alive. And he is alive for ever and ever and will never die again - and **that** is what we were designed for. That is the life Jesus offers to us: a life where we may die in this world, but will never die again.

Revelation 21:4 tells us that this new kingdom Jesus calls us into has no more tears, no more suffering and, most of all, no more death because when Jesus rose it was the very last time death would ever touch him, and the beginning of the very last time death can ever touch us.

Do you know this Jesus? The one who calls you to never die again, who calls you to eternal life with him?



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Reflection Questions:

- Jesus knew he would raise Lazarus, yet he still wept. What does this show you about how Jesus responds to your grief and pain?
- Martha expresses both faith and confusion when speaking to Jesus. Where in your life do you find yourself holding both belief and unanswered questions?
- Jesus declares, “I am the resurrection and the life.” What does it mean for you personally to trust Jesus not just for help now, but for eternal life?
- Death is described as something wrong, not natural to God’s design. How does this perspective shape the way you think about suffering, loss, and hope?

Notes:
