

# The Journey

## Series 05: Cross

### Week 42: Jesus Raises the Dead

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Review (Where We Have Been)

The identity of Jesus has been the focus of our study upon moving into the New Testament. Let's review our lessons on *What Jesus Does* and *Who He Is*.

#### What Jesus Does...

- Teaches with authority (because He perfectly *knows* God's Word and *is* God)
- Forgives sin
- Demonstrates power over physical/spirit realms
- Calls people to be born again
- Provides eternal life (to those who come to and believe in Him)

#### Who Jesus is...

- He is the Christ, Son of the Living God (Deliverer, Savior, Messiah)  
**Mark 8:29 (ESV)** "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." **30** And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.
- He is the way, truth, and life  
**John 14:6 (ESV)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
  - ✓ He is the door (only way to God)
  - ✓ He is the good Shepherd (gives His life for the sheep)

#### BIG Idea

Today we will be adding another layer to the identity of Jesus... **He is the Resurrection and the Life.**

We've talked a lot about death since the beginning of the journey; however, today we're focusing on how God planned resurrection for those who believe in Jesus.

Coming back to life seems impossible, but God can do anything.

He has given us many examples in His Word of how He did the impossible.

As we consider the miracle in this lesson, keep in mind God not only wants us to recognize His power, but to believe in Him as our Deliverer.

## Information (What We Need to Know)

### ***Background of Lazarus' Circumstance...***

- Lazarus is diagnosed with terminal illness

**John 11:1 (ESV)** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany... **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

- ✓ Lazarus' sisters sent word to Jesus because He could heal and was a good friend
- ✓ Jesus responded to his illness by saying that it would lead to God's glory

- Jesus delays a visit to see Lazarus

**John 11:6 (ESV)** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"

- ✓ Most would rush to see a dying friend
- ✓ Disciples reminded Jesus that the people in Judea wanted to kill him

- Lazarus dies and the disciples consider themselves in danger

**John 11:11 (ESV)** After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." **13** Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- ✓ Jesus reveals that what will happen will cause them to believe
- ✓ Thomas pessimistically says that they should all go to Judea and die

### ***Aftermath of Lazarus' Death...***

- Jesus arrived four days after his death

**John 11:17 (ESV)** Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **19** ...and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

- Martha knows the outcome would have been different if Jesus had arrived sooner

**John 11:20 (ESV)** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** 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 from God, God will give you."

- Jesus teaches Martha about resurrection

- ✓ Martha believed in a future resurrection at the end of the world

**John 11:23 (ESV)** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

One physical life is followed by death, and then resurrection/judgment.

**Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)** ...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...

- ✓ Jesus wanted to change her understanding of resurrection

**John 11:25 (ESV)** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

Faith in resurrection must move from a *Perception* to a *Person*.

- Martha must respond in faith to Jesus' teaching of resurrection

**John 11:26 (ESV)** Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Martha expressed belief that Jesus was the One sent by God to take away sin.

## Application (What We Need to Do)

What happened to Lazarus?

**John 11:38 (ESV)** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone.... **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

How did people respond to Lazarus being raised from the dead?

**John 11:45 (ESV)** Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, **46** but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. **47** So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. **48** If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

"Not all believed. Most of the religious leaders refused to put their faith in Jesus despite His miracles. They were only interested in retaining their position and wealth. They were afraid that if the people made Jesus their king, the Romans authorities, who controlled Israel, would blame the Jewish leaders and replace them with Roman rulers. So the scribes, priests and Pharisees planned to kill Jesus." – Firm Foundations

Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life?