

# John 11

## The Death of Lazarus

**1**Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

**4**When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

### 1. Still Work To Be Done

- Even though Jesus' good friend Lazarus was on his death bed Jesus still recognized that there was still work to do where he was at.
- Jesus knew that the work that needed to be done for those next two days would be important to his mission of advancing the Kingdom of God.
  - o No matter the circumstance you're going through, God is going to rescue you. But in His timing.

**8**The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9**Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10**But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." **11**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,<sup>b</sup> said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

### 2. Sin Creates Darkness, Dismay, and Death

- Vs. 9 Jesus is talking about us here in a roundabout way. He is saying that when we walk in the light of this world, the sun, we don't stumble around when we walk. However, at night there are obstacles that we cannot see and they jump out at us and make us trip and sometimes fall.

*I Am the Resurrection and the Life*

**17**Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18**Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles<sup>c</sup> off, **19**and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20**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." **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 on the last day." **25**Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.<sup>d</sup> Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26**and everyone who 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 coming into the world."**

### 3. Live The Life

- Often in our lives we get caught in what I like to call a resurrection cycle.
  - o We focus on the resurrection just like Martha is here. She knows so confidently that Jesus is coming back to raise the church to live with Him in eternity but she loses sight of the LIFE that she is to live on earth.
- Think of it this way. Ezekiel 37 shares a story of how God leads Ezekiel to the valley of dry bones.
  - o They had been resurrected but they couldn't do a thing without life. And God's breath gives life!

### John 11:32-44

**32**Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33**When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved<sup>e</sup> in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34**And he said, "**Where have you laid him?**" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35**Jesus wept. **36**So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37**But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

### *Jesus Raises Lazarus*

**38**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. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42**I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.**" **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.**"

#### **4. Unbound & Set Free**

- Jesus weeps.
  - I believe that this is one of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible to new believers because it says so much about how much Jesus cares for us.
- I believe that Jesus wasn't just weeping over Lazarus. But instead He was upset about the unbelief that he had just witnessed.
  - He was looking at how far Israel had come. How far away from their Faithful God they had become.
  - And God was glorified when he raised Lazarus from the dead. So, that he could WALK into LIFE
    - He had to come out!
      - Out of the grave, out of the darkness, out of the confusion, out of DEATH.
      - He had to move out of the darkness and into the light in order to be fully resurrected. He had to choose to walk into Jesus being the resurrection AND the life.
- I love the ending of this section of scripture. **“Unbind him, and let him go.”**
  - What Jesus is proclaiming here to all who can hear Him is that Death will no longer have a hold on your life. He's saying we have been unbound and set free from death.
    - **Jesus creates light in the darkness, peace in the dismay, and LIFE out of death**