

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 2/22/26**  
***Days With Jesus, Day 34—The Day God Cried***  
**John 11:28-44**

**Jesus weeps for his FRIENDS**

Like her sister Martha, Mary has faith Jesus can heal people miraculously as he's done many times before. While some ridicule Jesus, Mary and Martha trust him implicitly. *Be humble, it's easy to be judgmental about what you are ignorant of!* Jesus loved Lazarus and had close, personal relationships with others. In his humanity, he felt the sting and pain of loss, which broke his heart, and was a man acquainted with sorrow and grief (Is. 53:3). Wealthy Jewish families would hire professional mourners to honor their dead, but for Jesus the weeping was personal and real. God is a real help in our real hurt. *When we need God the most, He is at His best* (2 Cor. 1:3-5)!

**Lazarus is SUPER dead!**

At burial, the Jews wrapped the body in strips of linen with spices and strong perfumes to mask the decomposition smell. Those close to Lazarus had seen his sickness, decline, and death. And after four days, Jesus let Lazarus be *very dead* so no one could accuse him of faking the death. *God often allows extreme situations to provide extreme solutions!* Standing in front of the tomb, Jesus tells the men to roll the stone away. Some people protest, knowing the only thing on the other side of the stone is the smell of death. *Sometimes the stench of this life sets the stage for the sweetness of the Savior!*

**Lazarus is SUPER alive!**

Once the stone was removed, Jesus called Lazarus' soul back from God. While neither Lazarus, nor anyone else, asked him to come back to life, Jesus showed his divine ability to control the spiritual realm. *When Jesus says you live, you get life* (John 10:28; 1 John 5:11-13)! Though he couldn't hear Jesus' command, Lazarus returns to his body, and it unputrifies and is restored to life. No stronger evidence could be given to who Jesus was than the 'regiving' of life. *Only God can give physical and spiritual life the first and second time!* This resurrection is a preview of the Last Day when Jesus will 'call' everyone's bodies into existence by the power of his word and judge everyone who has ever lived (John 5:24-29; Rev. 20:11-15). For the dead, the future is sealed, but for the living, grace and mercy is offered to repent and change (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 6:2). *If you can hear the voice of God, respond to the voice of God!*