



Pastor Mason Phillips | April 5, 2026

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Day 1: Death Does Not Have the Final Say

Devotional: Jesus intentionally delayed going to Lazarus, not because He didn't care, but because He had a greater purpose. Sometimes God allows difficult circumstances not to harm us, but to reveal His glory through redemption. When Jesus said, "I am glad for your sakes that I was not there," He was pointing to a truth that transcends our immediate comfort: God's love is demonstrated through the redemptive use of suffering, not just its removal. Today, consider what "dead" situation in your life might actually be a platform for God's glory. Are you willing to trust that His timing, though painful, is perfect? Death—whether physical, relational, or spiritual—never gets the final word when Jesus is involved.

Reading:

John 11:1-16 NKJV

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews taught to stone You, and are You going there again?" 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. "But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

Reflection Question: What circumstance in your life feels "dead," and how might God be preparing to show His glory through it?

Day 2: I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Devotional: Martha believed in resurrection as a future event, but Jesus revealed that resurrection is a present person. "I AM the resurrection and the life" — not "I will be" or "I have." This changes everything. Eternal life isn't something we wait for; it's someone we walk with now. When we anchor ourselves to Jesus as the source of life itself, our hope becomes unshakeable. We stop viewing God as a distant provider of future blessings and start experiencing Him as our present

reality. The way you view death determines how you live your life. If you see Jesus as the resurrection, you'll invest in eternal values today, knowing that nothing—no loss, pain, or failure—can separate you from His life-giving presence.

Reading:

John 11:17-27 NKJV

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

"But even now I know that whatever You ask of god, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

"And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Reflection Question: Do you relate to God primarily as a future promise or a present reality?

Day 3: Trusting God Over Circumstances

Devotional: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God"—not death, not life, not circumstances. This isn't wishful thinking; it's the anchor of our souls. When storms rage and death's echoes surround us—through injustice, loss, sickness, or fear—we must compare our circumstances not to ourselves but to Christ. He is the bridge over the raging river of death. He has already crossed what seems impassable to us. Paul calls our sufferings "momentary light afflictions" not because they don't hurt, but because they cannot compare to the eternal weight of glory awaiting us. Today, choose to trust God's character over your circumstances.

Let His resurrection power remind you that what looks like the end is often just the beginning of something new.

Reading:

Romans 8:31-39 NKJV

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection Question: What circumstance is demanding your attention more than God's character today?

Day 4: Roll Away the Stone

Devotional: Before Lazarus could experience resurrection, the stone had to be removed. Jesus commanded, "Take away the stone," and Martha resisted— "Lord, by this time there is a stench." We do the same. We hide our dead things: past failures, toxic patterns, unconfessed sins, broken relationships. We keep them buried because exposure feels too painful, too embarrassing. But hidden death festers and poisons. It contaminates everything until there's nothing left to save.

Resurrection requires honesty. God cannot breathe life into what we refuse to expose. Today, identify one "stone" you've been keeping in place. What are you hiding that needs the light of Christ? Roll away the stone—not because it's easy, but because life only comes when death is confronted and surrendered to the Resurrection and the Life.

Reading:

John 11:38-44 NKJV

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying, And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Reflection Question: What "stone" is God asking you to roll away so He can bring resurrection to that area?

Day 5: Living the Resurrection Life

Devotional: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting?" Because of Easter, we don't just survive—we triumph. The resurrection of Jesus isn't merely a historical event; it's a present power that transforms how we live today. When you align your purpose with God's glory, trust Him over your circumstances, and remove the stones hiding death in your life, you step into resurrection living. This means you no longer fear death's echoes—pain, loss,

failure—because they're temporary. You invest in eternal values. You live with bold confidence that nothing is wasted in God's hands. Today is your day. Death was defeated on the cross and conquered at the empty tomb. Now live like it. Let resurrection life flow through you, bringing hope to a world still bound by fear.

Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 NKJV

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of any eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?”

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Reflection Question: How will you live differently today knowing that resurrection life is yours in Christ?

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank You that death does not have the final say. You are the Resurrection and the Life. Help me trust You over my circumstances, roll away the stones I've been hiding, and live fully in the victory You've already won. Fill me with resurrection power today and every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*