Miracles of Jesus - Lazarus: Come Forth
Pastor Jay Hassman
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Day 1: When Love Delays
Reading: John 11:1-16

Devotional: Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus about their brother, and He stayed where He was for two more days. John tells us plainly that Jesus loved this family and then records His decision not to come immediately. Love and delay existed together. This challenges our assumption that God's care always moves at the pace we expect. His timing is shaped by purposes we cannot yet see. When your prayer seems to go unanswered and the situation worsens, resist the conclusion that His silence means indifference. The delay at Bethany was not a failure of love. It was love operating with a larger intention in view. Bring your honest confusion to Him today and ask Him to steady your trust while you wait.

Personal Reflection: Where in your life have you interpreted God's silence as abandonment? What would it mean to hold onto His revealed love even when His timing remains unexplained?

Day 2: Honest Faith in the Presence of Grief
Reading: John 11:17-27; Psalm 13:1-6

Devotional: Martha's first words to Jesus were not a composed theological statement. They were the words of a grieving sister: "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." She called Him Lord and told Him exactly what hurt. That is the shape of lament. Bring real pain to a real God without pretending the pain is smaller than it is. Psalm 13 follows the same pattern: the writer names his anguish, asks God to act, and then reaches toward trust. Faith does not require us to suppress sorrow. It requires us to bring our sorrow to the right Person. Jesus did not correct Martha's grief. He met her in it and then revealed Himself as the answer to the very thing she feared most.

Personal Reflection: Is there a grief or disappointment you have been managing privately rather than bringing to God? What has kept you from voicing it honestly in prayer?

Day 3: The Resurrection and the Life Stands Before You
Reading: John 11:25-27; John 5:24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Devotional: Martha believed in a future resurrection. Jesus showed her that the resurrection is not only a future event. It is a present Person. When He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life," He was not offering her a doctrine to comfort her. He was revealing Himself as the source of every hope she carried. Christian hope is not optimism about circumstances. It is confidence in a living Lord whose victory over death has already been secured. 1 Corinthians 15 describes the risen Christ as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. The meaning is that His resurrection is the beginning and guarantee of ours. The question Jesus asked Martha is the question He places before us: "Do you believe this?" That question is not asking for certainty about every detail. It is asking whether we trust the One who stands behind the promise.

Personal Reflection: How does your daily life reflect the difference between hoping for better circumstances and trusting in the risen Christ? Where does your hope rest?

Day 4: Jesus Wept even though He Is Near
Reading: John 11:28-37; Psalm 34:18; Isaiah 25:8

Devotional: John 11:35 is the shortest verse in Scripture, and one of the most significant. Jesus stood among the mourners and wept. He was not weeping because He lacked a solution. He already knew what He was about to do. He wept because the grief of those He loved was real to Him, and He entered it fully. Psalm 34:18 tells us that God is near to the brokenhearted. This is not a distant nearness. It is the nearness of a Savior who wept at a grave. Isaiah 25:8 promises that one day He will wipe away every tear from every face. The One who shares our tears now is the same One who will one day remove the source of them entirely. His compassion in the present and His promise for the future belong to the same Lord.

Personal Reflection: Is there someone in your life who is grieving and needs your presence more than your explanations? How might the example of Jesus shape the way you draw near to them?

Day 5: The Voice That Reaches Every Tomb
Reading: John 11:38-44; Ephesians 2:1-10; Revelation 21:1-5

Devotional: Jesus did not stand at the entrance of the tomb and hope that Lazarus would somehow recover. He called into the darkness with authority: "Lazarus, come forth." And the man who had been dead for four days walked out. The crowd could weep with the family, but they could not give Lazarus back. Only the voice of Jesus could do that. Ephesians 2 reminds us that our spiritual condition before Christ was not merely weak. It was dead. We did not improve ourselves into life. God made us alive with Christ. Salvation is entirely His work. And Revelation 21 shows us the horizon toward which all of this is moving: a day when death, sorrow, crying, and pain will be no more. Some prayers receive visible answers now. Others await that final day. Either way, our hope rests in the same living Lord whose voice no tomb could silence.

Personal Reflection: In what area of your life do you need to hear the voice of Jesus speak with authority? Are you trusting Him with that place, or are you still trying to move the stone on your own?