

**Back to Life**

Pastor Gregg Brenes

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>(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.) <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." Jn 11:1-7

**Sometimes the way God works doesn't make sense to us.**

So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days... John 11:6

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." John 11:21, 32

- **We trust God's timing and wisdom.**

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jn 11:21-22

- **We rely on His goodness and love.**

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ... <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. Jn 11:33, 35

- **We hope in His resurrection power.**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." John 11:25-27

**Only Jesus has the power to bring dead things back to life.**

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. <sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:43-45

- Jesus is still calling us to bring Him to the dead places. (v. 34)
- Jesus calls us to do some things that require faith. (v. 39-40)
- Jesus calls us to care for people who need Jesus. (v. 44)

**Let's Connect**

- Do you like surprises? Why or why not?

**Let's Talk About It**

All of us will come to moments in our relationship with Christ where the way God is working doesn't make sense. When we experience disappointment and grief, the temptation is to run away from God. God invites us to draw near Him and trust His goodness, wisdom, and timing. Only Jesus has the power to bring dead things back to life. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, many people came to believe in and follow Jesus. When God resurrects things in our lives, He almost always desires us to use our experience to share His love and power with others.

John 20:31; John 11:1-45; Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalm 27:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read John 11:1-7. What do you do when it's difficult to understand how God is working in your life?
- Share about a season when it was difficult to understand what God was doing. How did you navigate through it? Did you lean into God or run away? What did you learn in the process?
- Read John 11:38-44. Where do you need a touch of God's resurrection power? What would it look like for you to trust in His timing and wisdom and rely on His love and goodness?
- When God resurrects things in our lives, He almost always desires us to use our experience to bless others. What would it look like to use your faith to share with others what Jesus has done for you?

**Take a Step**

- Invite God into the area of your life where you need a touch of His resurrection power. Trust Him, use your faith and see what God can do.

**Here's My Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your resurrection power. When I don't understand what You are doing, I choose to draw closer to You. I trust in Your wisdom and timing. I rely on Your love and goodness. I hope in Your resurrection power. I invite You into the dead places in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.