

“The Gospel of John: Resurrection Rise”

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Scripture

John 11:1-45

“Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. So, the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "**This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.**" Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, **He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.**

7Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "**Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking 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 anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; **but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.**"

12The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. **So, Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."** Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

17So when Jesus came, He found that **he had already been in the tomb four days.** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.

21Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." **Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**

24Martha said to Him, "**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.**"

25Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"**

27She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; **I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God,** even He who comes into the world." When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him.

30Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Therefore, when Mary came

where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

33When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, **He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled**, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So, the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"

So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."

40Jesus said to her, "**Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**" So, they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. "I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

43When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come forth.**" The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**" Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him."

Last Week

Finishing up John 10: Jesus retreating from public ministry, going across the Jordan river

Jesus's next entrance into Jerusalem will be the Passion week

This Week

Some personal ministry focus and the next "I AM" statement

It's a two-act play

The Characters

- Lazarus
- Martha
- Mary
- Disciples
- The Jews

John 11:1-3

"Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. So, the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "**Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.**"

The Scene

Bethany, 2 miles East of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives – **Mary will anoint Jesus soon (John 12)**

Lazarus is sick, Martha and Mary send for the Lord -> **Jesus loves this family deeply**

Jesus has a special relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

Luke 10:38-42 (Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha)

“Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called **Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.** But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**”

Mary was sitting at the Lord's feet – listening to Him

We learn that intimate time with the Lord is critical even though ministry work is important

The Statement

John 11:4-6

“But when Jesus heard this, He said, "**This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.**" Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, **He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.**”

God's glory will be revealed through Lazarus's sickness, initial death, and first resurrection

The Son of God will be glorified by what happens

God shines a light on you in good times and difficult circumstances -> how we react reveals our character

This is an intimate setting showing a special relationship -> “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus”

“So, when He heard that he was sick, **He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was**” – Jesus purposely delays coming to Bethany – staying two days longer by the Jordan

The Commitment

We see Jesus's commitment to go back toward Jerusalem

John 11:7-11

“Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "**Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking 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 anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; **but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.**”

Even if the Jews were seeking Him

Even if the disciples are against it

Jesus is the Light of the World

“If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.” -> **Jesus knows!**

He knows that the events to come are critical to the gospel message

It is still daytime because Jesus is still working on Earth

He tells the disciples they need to go wake Lazarus up!

John 11:12-13

“The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but **they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.**”

The disciples do not understand what the Lord is saying

The Fact

John 11:14-16

“**So, Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”** Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

Jesus has to tell the disciples that Lazarus is actually dead, not just asleep

“I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”

Jesus knows that the disciples’ faith is going to grow from what is to come

It is an opportunity for a deeper, more committed faith

This is how the Lord works through difficulties in our lives -> faith grows through personal struggle

The disciples need to have a deeper faith in Jesus

“Let us also go, so that we may die with Him” -> Thomas -> **the trip back toward Jerusalem is a suicide mission**

Thomas reveals that He doubts the Lord’s protection of him and the others

Thomas needs a deeper faith in Jesus

Act 2 Begins -> Jesus is near Bethany

John 11:17-21

“So, when Jesus came, He found that **he had already been in the tomb four days.** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. Martha then said to Jesus, “**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**”

Jesus and the disciples make it to Bethany and Martha knows that the Lord is coming

Lazarus had been dead for 4 days! Good and dead, he was. No doubt that this was not a fraud situation

Some Jews from Jerusalem could be hired as mourners to come to funerals and cry with the family

Most likely, however, Mary and Martha were well off and had many friends with connections

“**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**” -> Martha knows the Lord’s healing power

Surely, Jesus would have healed her brother -> deep trust in Jesus exists

The Training

John 11:22-24

"Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." **Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."**

24Martha said to Him, **'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'**"

"whatever You ask of God, God will give You" -> Martha is sure that Jesus can do anything He wants

"Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." -> Jesus confirms that Lazarus will rise again

"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." -> Martha has been taught well

Martha knows about resurrection!

Apparently, Mary wasn't the only one sitting at the feet of Our Lord!

Paul was also taught about the resurrection by the Lord:

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

"Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, **I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**"

Lazarus will not have to wait until the Lord returns at the last trumpet

Jesus then shared the 5th "I AM" statement -> I AM the God of Resurrection!

The Fifth "I AM"

John 11:25-29

"Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"**

27She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; **I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God**, even He who comes into the world." When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him."

"I am the resurrection and the life" -> Jesus declares that He is the One providing resurrection

It is the Lord's miraculous power to bring people back to life

Four "I AM" statements so far in John: Bread of Life, Light of the World, Door to the Sheep, Good Shepherd

"Do you believe this?" -> the Lord is asking her if she has trust in what she has been taught

Do you believe you will be resurrected back to life after your earthly death?

Do you fear death? If you know you will be raised again by Jesus, why would you fear death?

“Yes, Lord; **I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God**, even He who comes into the world” – Martha responds positively -> she knows He is the Messiah and God -> **He can do anything He wishes!**

Martha then goes and lets Mary know that Jesus is there

John 11:30-32

“Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**”

Mary sees Jesus and **responds in the same way that Martha did** -> Jesus would have healed Lazarus

Both women do not know that Jesus purposely waited for two days to allow Lazarus to be good and dead

What was Jesus’s reaction to Lazarus’s death?

The Reaction

John 11:33-39

“When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, **He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled**, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” **Jesus wept**. So, the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?”

So, Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

Jesus was “deeply moved in spirit” -> **What do you think Jesus was doing?**

Was Jesus crying with the Mary and the Jews? -> “Jesus wept”

Were they tears of sorrow and loss?

Jesus knew what He was going to do -> **Why would He be crying for the loss of Lazarus?**

No, Jesus was angry! -> The Greek word here says He was moved to a stern response

The Jews misinterpreted Jesus’s emotions – Many think that He was heartbroken or sad

His deep love was pouring out in tears, perhaps?

Didn’t He just say that He was the resurrection and the life?

Why would Jesus be angry?

They had the knowledge of resurrection but not a deep faith in Jesus’s power to raise Lazarus on the spot

Jesus “came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.” -> shows wealth

“Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days” -> Martha being practical again

The Revelation (of God's glory)

John 11:40-42

"Jesus said to her, **"Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"** So, they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. "I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

Jesus said that Lazarus's sickness was to reveal God's glory

Jesus prays to the Father for the purpose to hear Him pray -> "I and the Father are one" – no separation

The Resurrection Rise

John 11:43-45

"When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, **"Lazarus, come forth."** The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **"Unbind him, and let him go."** Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him."

We sang, "I will rise when He calls my name" earlier

Jesus simply calls Lazarus out of the grave

Lazarus's resurrection foreshadows Jesus's resurrection one week later

"Unbind him and let him go." -> no longer should Lazarus be bound by his burial cloth

Reminiscent of our rescue from the sin -> "the wages of death" – Romans 6:23

"many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him" -> seeing that miracle

No doubt that many believed in Him

What about us?

Do we have complete trust in the Lord?

"The name of the Lord is, a strong tower, the righteous run into it, and they are saved"

"he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."

Communion Prayer

Benediction