

### 138. Jesus Raises Lazarus from Death (John 11:17-44)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. No one else can give eternal life. Please make our faith in You strong. Please help us remember that You defeated death, and we will also defeat death because we belong to You. We pray in Your name, amen.

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John 11:17-22. When Jesus arrived, Jesus found out that Lazarus was already dead and buried four days. Bethany was close to Jerusalem, less than two miles. Many Jews came from Jerusalem to comfort Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters. Martha heard Jesus was coming, and she went to meet Him, but Mary stayed home. Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if You were here earlier, my brother would not have died. But I know God will give You anything You ask, even now."

- Did Jesus arrive in time to help Lazarus? How long was Lazarus dead?
- When did Martha want Jesus to arrive? Did Martha think Jesus could do anything to help now? Or did she think it was too late?

John 11:23-27. Jesus said, "Your brother will rise alive again." Martha said, "I know in the resurrection on the last day, he will rise alive again." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The person who believes in Me will live, even if he dies. The person who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God come into the world."

- What did Jesus tell Martha? Did she believe Jesus?
- Who is the only person who can give life to Lazarus? What does Jesus mean, "I am the resurrection and the life?"
- Jesus said "The person who lives and believes in Me will never die." We see Christians die all the time. What did Jesus mean?

John 11:28-37. Martha went home. She told her sister Mary, “The Teacher is here. He wants you to come.” Mary quickly stood up and went to see Jesus. Jesus was still outside of town. Some Jewish people were in the house with Mary, comforting her. They saw her quickly get up and leave. They thought she was going to the tomb, so they followed her. Mary came to Jesus and knelt down. She said, “Lord, if you were here before, my brother would not have died.” Jesus saw her and the other Jews crying. Jesus felt very sorry for her. He asked, “Where did you put Lazarus?” They answered, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus cried. The Jews said, “Look how much Jesus loved Lazarus.” But some Jews asked, “Jesus could make a blind man see, right? If Jesus came earlier, He could have kept Lazarus alive!”

- Jesus knew He will raise Lazarus from the dead. So why did Jesus cry?
- What did the Jewish people think about Jesus? Did they think He could have helped earlier? Did they think He could help now?

John 11:38-40. Jesus went to the tomb and was deeply sad. The tomb was a cave with a stone covering the entrance. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha said, “But Lord, he was there four days. It will smell awful.” Jesus said, “Remember, I told you that if you believed, you will see God’s glory?”

- Remember what Martha said when she saw Jesus earlier? Did she believe at first? Does Martha believe now that Lazarus will live?

John 11:41-44. So they moved the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank You that You already heard Me. I know You always hear me. I say this for the people here, so they can believe You sent Me.” Then Jesus said in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” Lazarus came out, his hands, feet, and head still covered with burial clothes. Jesus said, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” Many Jews with Mary and Martha saw what Jesus did, and they believed in Jesus.

- Why did Jesus pray?
- You remember Jesus waited and didn’t come quickly to heal Lazarus. Why? How was this different from healing a sick man?