

John 11:1-54 **Lazarus Raised from the Dead**

Lazarus is sick brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany

¹ Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." ⁴ 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." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

Walk in the Light

⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

Lazarus is dead

¹¹ These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." ¹² Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." ¹³ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

Four days in the tomb

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

I am the resurrection and the life

²⁰ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Mary came to Jesus – If You had been here my brother would not have died

²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." ²⁹ As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." ³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus wept

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" 37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

You shall see the glory of God

38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 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." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Lazarus, come forth

41 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. 42 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." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Jews with Mary believed

45 Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him

46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

Earnest plot to put Jesus to death

53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. 54 Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Lazarus is sick brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany

- ✠ Jesus was anointed by Mary the sister of Martha, Lazarus, and Judas Iscariot, daughter of Simon the leper who was a Pharisee. [Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8]
- ✠ Lazarus was sick so Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. [John 11:1-3]

✚ Jesus said, **"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."** [John 11:4]

✚ Jesus loved the family, but stayed two more days where He was. [John 11:5-6]

Walk in the Light

✚ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" [John 11:7-8]

✚ 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." [John 11:9-10]

✧ The danger in Jerusalem is real, the Jews had attempted to stone Jesus before and the disciples ask, "Are You going there again?"

✧ Time is limited, walk while you have the light of the world, without it there is a danger of stumbling.

Lazarus is dead

✚ These things He said, and after that He said to them, **"Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."** [John 11:11]

✚ 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. [John 11:12-13]

✚ 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." [John 11:14-15]

✚ Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, **"Let us also go, that we may die with Him."** [John 11:16]

✧ Jesus had deliberately stayed away until Lazarus had died, for the sake of giving the disciples a demonstration of His resurrection power to strengthen their belief.

✧ This demonstrates that Jesus knew all things even from long distance.

✧ The time of death was well established so there could be no doubt that the resurrection was real and not pretended.

✧ The danger in Jerusalem was so real that Thomas was convinced that Jesus would be killed and that the disciples also were in danger, but he was willing to die with Jesus if need be.

Four days in the tomb

✚ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. [John 11:17]

✚ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. [John 11:18]

✚ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. [John 11:19]

✧ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb four days.

✧ He was only two miles from Jerusalem the center of His enemies.

✧ Many Jews were in the company comforting Martha and Mary.

✧ Mary and Martha were daughters of Simon a Pharisee. [Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8]

✧ Jesus' presence could not be kept secret from the Pharisees who were planning to put Jesus to death.

I am the resurrection and the life

✚ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Then 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."** [John 11:20-22]

✧ Martha expressed faith in Jesus and indicated that she knew that God would listen to Jesus and allow Lazarus to be brought back to life if Jesus so chose to ask of God.

- ✠ Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" [John 11:23]
- ✠ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." [John 11:24]
- ✠ 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?**" [John 11:25-26]
- ✠ She said to Him, "**Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God,** who is to come into the world." [John 11:27]
 - ✧ Jesus draws Martha to explicitly express her earnest faith in Him for the present as well as for the Last Day resurrection
 - ✧ The resurrection to life is for the believers. [John 11:25-26]
 - ✧ Jesus Himself is the Resurrection and the Life, the dead will hear His voice, and those who hear will live. [John 5:25, 11:25-26]

Mary came to Jesus – If You had been here my brother would not have died

- ✠ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. [John 11:28-29]
- ✠ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then **the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her,** saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." [John 11:30-31]
- ✠ Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**" [John 11:32]
 - ✧ Mary came to Jesus with the same statement as had Martha, "**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.**"
 - ✧ The accompanying Jews were witnesses to the exchange.

Jesus wept

- ✠ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. [John 11:33]
- ✠ And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." [John 11:34]
- ✠ Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" [John 11:35-36]
- ✠ And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" [John 11:37]
 - ✧ Jesus groaned in the spirit, was troubled, and wept, because of the lack of understanding and faith.
 - ✧ The Jews took the weeping of Jesus as an indication of the Love Jesus felt toward the dead, questioned if Jesus had come sooner He might have been able to prevented the death.

You shall see the glory of God

- ✠ 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." [John 11:38-39]
- ✠ 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." [John 11:39]
- ✠ Jesus said to her, "**Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?**" [John 11:40]
 - ✧ Everyone looking at the situation from a human standpoint could not imagine what Jesus would do, and knew that a dead body laid in the tomb four days would have already begun to decay and would stink.

✧ Jesus reminded Martha that she would now see the glory of God revealed.

Lazarus, come forth

✧ 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." [John 11:41-42]

✧ 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 graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." [John 11:43-44]

✧ The prayer of Jesus was for the purpose that the witnesses would believe that the resurrection of Lazarus was a sign that God the Father placed His stamp of approval on Jesus and His ministry.

✧ The resurrection of Lazarus was proof positive that Jesus is indeed the resurrection and the life, as Jesus had said.

✧ Lazarus was wrapped in grave cloths similar to the wrapping of the body of Jesus when Jesus was buried.

✧ Lazarus needed someone to unwrap his body, whereas Jesus did not need help coming out of His grave cloths.

Jews with Mary believed

✧ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. [John 11:45]

✧ When Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead, it was enough evidence to convince many of the Jewish witnesses of the fact that Jesus is indeed the Son of God with authority over life and death.

If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him

✧ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. [John 11:46]

✧ Then the **chief priests and the Pharisees** gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." [John 11:47-48]

✧ The council of the Chief Priests and Pharisees were more interested in their own position among the Jews and Romans, they only viewed the miracles Jesus was doing as a threat to their own authority.

✧ They acknowledged the fact that Jesus was certainly displaying undeniable signs which should have persuaded them to recognize that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

✧ Jealousy and resentment prevented them from accepting the truth, even though they realized that all the people would certainly believe in Jesus through the evidence presented in the miracles.

Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation

✧ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." [John 11:49-50]

✧ Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad [John 11:51-52]

✧ God inspired Caiaphas the High Priest to voice a prophecy even when he did not realize what he was doing.

Earnest plot to put Jesus to death

- ‡ Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples. [\[John 11:53-54\]](#)
- ✧ The resurrection of Lazarus incited more violent reaction in the hearts of the Jewish leaders to the point that they actively began specifically to plan a way to put Jesus to death.
 - ✧ Jesus could no longer move about openly among the Jews, so He withdrew to Ephraim near the wilderness.
 - ✧ Jesus remained there until the time for Passover celebration, when He would return to die as the Passover Lamb.