



# Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

John 11:1-45



Jesus had done countless miracles. Many people believed that He was sent from God. Then He raised His good friend, Lazarus, from the grave. Jesus showed that He had power over death, and even more people believed in Him.

## Day #1: Call to Jesus

Name one of your good friends. Do you like to go to his or her home? Do you feel comfortable there? What do you like to do when you visit your friend's house?

Jesus had several close friends. Jesus was very good friends with a man named Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved to spend time with this family. Jesus traveled all over Israel, teaching and healing people. But often, when He was in the town of Bethany, He and His disciples would stay with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (Luke 10:38).

One day when Jesus was teaching many miles from Bethany, He received a message about Lazarus from Mary and Martha.

✝ *So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Lord," they told Him, "the one You love is sick." - John 11:3*

Mary and Martha knew that Jesus had the power to heal Lazarus because He had healed many other people. He had healed the son of a royal official, a man who couldn't walk, a man with leprosy, and a man who had been born blind, just to name a few (John 4:43-53, John 5:5-9, Luke 5:13, John 9:1-7).

Mary and Martha called on the only One who could help them. They knew He was able to heal, and they knew how much He loved each one of them.

\* Just the same, when you are worried about something that is happening in your life, cry out to Jesus. He loves you, and He has the power to help you (1 John 3:16, John 13:3).

## Day #2: Eternal Good

Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was very sick.

✝ *When Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness will not end in death. **No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it.**"*

*Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. But after He heard Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two more days. - John 11:3-6*

God can turn something really bad into really good (Genesis 50:20). Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would turn out good in the end, because it would bring glory to God. In the end, more people would know the awesome power and goodness of God the Father, and of His Son Jesus.

Two days later, Jesus said it was time to go to Lazarus. Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up." (John 11:11) This was a figure of speech. Lazarus had actually died, and Jesus was going to raise him from the dead. Jesus was about to do something amazing and it would make the disciples' faith grow much stronger.

\* Just like the disciples, we often have a hard time understanding how God can make good things out of bad things. We must trust God, and remember that He does everything for eternal good.

We want things to be good here and now, but God makes things good for eternity. Put a drop of water on the palm of your hand. This is like the "here and now." Now close your eyes and imagine the ocean, which is like eternity. The here and now will be gone in the blink of an eye, but eternity is forever.

Whenever you are hurting, put a drop of water in your hand and close your eyes. Ask God to make your drop of suffering part of His ocean of eternal good.

## Day #3: Perfect Timing

Different people have different customs about burying their loved ones. In Jesus' day, the family members would wrap the body in strips of cloth, and put their loved one in a small, cave-like tomb. Many times, a large stone was rolled in front of the tomb to close it.

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Many Jews had come from Jerusalem to comfort Mary and Martha.

*When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him. But Mary stayed at home.*

### Day #3 continued:



*"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "I wish You had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give You anything You ask for."* - John 11:20-21

Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would rise again.

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even if he dies. And those who live and believe in Me will never die."* - John 11:25-26a

Martha told Jesus that she believed that He was the Messiah sent by God. Then she ran to get her sister. Mary came out and fell at Jesus' feet. She repeated what Martha had said: if only He had been there, Lazarus would not have died.

Both sisters cried out to Jesus in their sadness. They loved Jesus, and they knew He loved them, but they did not understand why He didn't come right away. We will see that He had a marvelous plan.



We have all gone through difficult times when it felt like God came to our aid a little too late. It is okay to talk to the Lord about how you feel, just as Mary and Martha did. Is it really hard to wait on the Lord when your need feels so urgent, but He is in control of all things, and His timing is ALWAYS perfect.

## Day #4: Jesus Wept

What makes you cry? Have you ever cried because someone else was sad? When we become sad because someone else is sad, it is called **compassion**. Compassion is feeling what another person is feeling, and wanting very much to help them. The Bible tells us many times that Jesus was filled with compassion (Matthew 14:14, Mark 1:41).



*Jesus saw (Mary) crying. He saw that the Jews who had come along with her were crying also. His spirit became very sad, and He was troubled.* - John 11:32

Then the Bible gives us an intimate detail about Jesus. Verse 35 says, "Jesus wept." Have you ever thought about God crying before? God is the all-powerful Creator of the universe, and yet He cried. Jesus cried because of His great love for His friends. Jesus didn't cry because He would miss Lazarus; He had already told his disciples that Lazarus would not remain dead. Jesus wept because He was overwhelmed with compassion for Mary and Martha (John 11:33).

Some people who saw Jesus crying wondered why Jesus didn't come earlier to heal him. Very soon they would find out why He waited!

Jesus asked to go to the tomb of Lazarus. It is wonderful that we have a Savior who comes to stand next to us when we are at our lowest point. Jesus was **the Life**, but He came down into our world that is full of death

### Day #4 continued:

to rescue us.



Just as Jesus wept for Mary and Martha, He weeps for you when you are broken-hearted. Did you know that God keeps a record of your tears? He will not forget the times you have cried.

*You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book.* - Psalm 56:8

You are never alone in your sadness. Jesus sits right next to God the Father and prays for you (Romans 8:34).

## Day #5: Death Defeated

Jesus stood in front of Lazarus' tomb.



*"Take away the stone," He said.*

*"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad smell. Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days."*

*Then Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see God's glory?" So they took away the stone.* - John 11:39-41

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father aloud so everyone standing by would know that God had sent Him.

*Then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, "Lazarus, come out!"* - John 11:43

Lazarus came out! He was alive and well, still wrapped in strips of cloth. Jesus told the people to remove the cloth and let him go (John 11:44).

Finally it all made sense. Jesus allowed Lazarus to die so that He could reveal something about Himself that these people did not know. Jesus had healed many sick people, but until now, almost no one knew he could raise the dead. God had promised that the Messiah would have victory over death (Isaiah 25:8). After Jesus raised Lazarus, there could be NO QUESTION that Jesus was who He said He was - the Son of God.

Jesus used something people **could see** to explain something they **could not see**. It was an AMAZING miracle for Jesus to raise a man from the dead. But as incredible as this *physical* miracle was, Jesus had the power to do something even more amazing! He could give *spiritual* life to everyone who was dead in their sins (Romans 5:10). There is NO other way to gain eternal life than to place your trust in Him (John 14:6).

*Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did. So they put their faith in Him.* - John 11:45



If you have waited for God to answer your prayers, take heart. He may be waiting so He can teach you something about Himself that you did not know before (John 17:3).