

The Resurrection and the Life– John 11



MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26

DAY 1 JOHN 11:1-16 — The Death of Lazarus

1. Describe Jesus’ relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus. vv.1-6
2. Considering all that Martha, Mary and the disciples had experienced with Jesus, what questions might they have had when Jesus stayed where He was for 2 more days after hearing about Lazarus’ illness? vv.5-10
3. Why did the disciples object to Jesus going to Judea? What do you think He meant by His response to them? vv. 7-10

John 8:12; 9:4-5

4. What were the disciples confused about? Why is “sleep” appropriate for describing death? vv.11-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

5. What was God’s plan and purpose through this incident with Lazarus? vv.4,11,14-15

LEARN THE TRUTH

When we believe in the power of Jesus we then get to experience it. We know that God can do the impossible, but can also have our own ideas of what, when and how He will do something. This can undermine our faith. Believing in Him means trusting Him to work out the details as He knows best.

DAY 2**JOHN 11:17-27 — Martha and Mary**

6. Why is verse 17 important?
7. How did Martha and Mary each react upon hearing that Jesus was coming? How might their differing personalities have influenced their reactions? vv.18-20

Luke 10:38-42

8. What do Martha's words to Jesus reveal about her frame of mind? vv.21-22
9. How did Jesus comfort Martha, and what important truth did she acknowledge? vv.23-27
10. "Resurrection" means bringing someone who was dead back to life. So why do you think Jesus said He was both the "resurrection" and the "life?"
John 10:10

Colossians 1:15,16

DAY 3**JOHN 11:28-37 — Jesus Wept**

11. What possible reasons might Jesus have had for remaining outside of the village rather than going to Mary? vv.28-31
12. How was Jesus' encounter with Mary similar, yet different, from His encounter with Martha? vv.32-33

13. Why do you think Jesus wept? vv.33-37

Hebrews 2:14-18

14. What did the Jews who were present conclude? vv.36-37

15. Is your personality more like Martha or Mary? Like these sisters, we all express grief differently, but what does it mean to grieve with hope rather than without hope?

Philippians 3:20-21

DAY 4 JOHN 11:38-44 — Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

16. It is clear from Scripture that Martha was a woman of strong faith. At this particular moment in time, how would you describe her faith or mindset? vv.38-40

17. Of what important truth did Jesus remind Martha? v.40

18. What about Jesus' prayer to His Father strikes you as interesting? vv.41-42

19. Think about the way Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Do the particulars of this miracle, and Jesus' words, paint a picture of other spiritual truths? vv.43-44

20. What truths especially stand out to you in this current reading of John 11:1-44?

DAY 5

JOHN 11:45-57 – The Plot to Kill Jesus

21. Once again, what opposite reactions resulted from the resurrection of Lazarus? vv.45-46

22. The council had used violating the Sabbath and committing blasphemy as excuses for persecuting Jesus. What was their current justification for seeking to put Jesus to death? vv.45-48, 53

23. Why were Caiaphas' words particularly significant? vv.49-53

24. Caiaphas, the chief priests and elders all plotted together to arrest and kill Jesus (Matthew 26:3-4), yet God prophesied through Caiaphas about Christ. What does this tell you about God's ways?

25. Raising Lazarus after he had been dead for 4 days was a turning point in the timeline leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. How had day to day life now changed because of this miracle? v.53-57

LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would not end in death, and was for God's glory so that Jesus would be glorified through it. (v.4) Is there a crisis in your life that seems hopeless? Take your eyes off your crisis and turn them to God. Believe what you know to be true about God and you will see His glory.

John 11

The Resurrection and the Life

Every miracle Jesus performed was life-changing and virtually impossible for anyone but God. But raising Lazarus after he had been dead for 4 days was a whole new level of the miraculous. God brings life out of death and this miracle is only a hint of what is yet to come through Christ in the future.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus knew Jesus very well. They loved Him and believed in Him. His followers called Him, "Rabbi," meaning "teacher," and yet He allowed women to sit at His feet and learn from His teaching, something no other Rabbi would have done. Because of their deep friendship with Jesus we cannot help but see the irony in the way this miracle unfolded. "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was." (vv.5,6) This implies that Jesus remained where He was **because** He loved them, not **in spite of** His love for them. Something much bigger than their extreme grief was happening which would impact not only Martha, Mary and Lazarus, but the disciples, mourners, the Jewish council and Jesus Himself. When walking with God, there is always more happening than meets the eye!

Everyone had expectations about what Jesus would do when He got the news that Lazarus was ill, so their faith was threatened when he died before Jesus got to him. Our greatest disappointments most often result from unmet expectations. We know what God is capable of through Scripture, but we cannot know exactly what He is doing presently unless He reveals it to us, and He often does not. When we decide what God should do for us, we end up discouraged. Our job is to trust Him, and when we do, we gain peace, we end up amazed at His power and goodness, and we grow in our faith.

Jesus relates to each of us according to our need as He did with Martha and Mary. In her grief, each one said to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother

would not have died." (vv.21;32) Martha went straight to meet Him in her pain and He spoke life to her. He waited outside the city for Mary and wept with her. Jesus waits for us and weeps with us too.

Raising Lazarus from the dead was a turning point for Jesus as the bad shepherds of Israel set out to kill Him. They had first accused Jesus of healing on the Sabbath, then of falsely claiming to be God, but and now claimed He would turn Rome against the Jews resulting in Israel losing their place and nation. The religious leaders did not believe, so they could not possibly see the glory of God. (v.40)

WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life! By Him all things were created, including each one of us. He brings life out of the pain and death we face in this fallen world. It can be hard to understand why God allows or does not prevent tragedy when we know that "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) When God delays or says, "no" it is because He has something better. "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) Our faith should be like that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who said, "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." (Daniel 3:17-18) We can wholeheartedly live with the expectation that God will raise us from the dead, first when we believe in Jesus and then for all eternity when Jesus returns.



INTRUTH John

Notes