



## **MESSAGE/SERIES:**

**Series: JESUS IN JOHN**

**Message: "Jesus Knows Our Need"**

**DATE: May 16, 2021**

## **SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:**

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**John 11:1-44**, John 12:3 (Mary), John 8:59, 10:31 (Stoning), John 9:4 (Night is coming), Matthew 9:24 (Sleeps/death), John 8:12, John 12:35 (Jesus light of the world), John 11:40 (Glory revealed), 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (Grieving with hope), John 5:28 (Calling out the dead), Luke 19:41 (Jesus connected with the pain of man), John 13:21 (Jesus deeply troubled)

## **OPENING SCRIPTURE:**

**[JOHN 11:1-44]** *"Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

*<sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But if anyone walks in the night,*

he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”<sup>11</sup> After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”<sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”<sup>13</sup> Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,<sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.<sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,<sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.<sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.<sup>34</sup> And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead for four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup>

*When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”<sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”*

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 11:1–45.

## TERMS & BACKGROUND:

### [TIMELINE OF THIS MIRACLE]

The schedule of events would look something like this, allowing one day for travel:

- Day 1— The messenger comes to Jesus (Lazarus dies).
- Day 2— The messenger returns to Bethany.
- Day 3— Jesus waits another day, then departs.
- Day 4— Jesus arrives in Bethany.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 334.

**[GLORY IN JOHN]** “in John ‘glory’ (*cf.* notes on 1:14) is more commonly not the praise that is God’s due but his revelation, his self-disclosure.”

D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 406.

**[LOGISTICS]** “It is a long walk from where Jesus is to Bethany, but Lazarus is already dead, perhaps by the time the messengers reach Jesus (11:14, 17)—it was only a day’s journey each way, just over twenty miles. For temporary rebuffs to test faith”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jn 11:6.

**[DEATH IN JUDEA]** “Visiting and consoling the bereaved in the days immediately following a close relative’s loss was an essential **duty of Jewish piety**. The neighbors would provide the first meal after the funeral. Lazarus would have been buried on the day of his death.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jn 11:17–19.

**[CUSTOMS]** “The first week of deep grief after a close relative’s burial would be spent mourning in one’s house, sitting on the floor and visited by friends. This custom, called *shivah* (for “seven” days), is still practiced in Judaism today and is very helpful for releasing grief. Mourners abstained from adornment for the next three weeks and from common pleasures for the next year.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jn 11:20.

“The body would be wrapped and left lying on the floor in the tomb’s antechamber; only after a year, when the flesh had rotted off, would family members return to collect the bones into a box, which they would then slide into a slot on the wall. After four days (11:17), decomposition was well underway, especially because it was no longer winter (11:55). Whatever spices they may have used to delay the stench (cf. comment on Mk 16:1) would no longer be effective.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jn 11:39.

**[FOUR DAYS]** “On the significance of *four days*, cf. notes on v. 17. The fear of the stench of decomposition assumes the body was not embalmed. Some have argued that v. 44 contradicts this assumption. However, what is described in v. 44 (cf. notes) is much less than embalming, and in any case, aromatic spices were used in Jewish circles not to embalm bodies (as did the Egyptians) but to counteract repulsive odors from bodily decomposition (cf. Sanders, p. 274 n. 1).”

D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 417.

**[BELIEFS ON THE RESURRECTION]** “The common belief of Judaism in this period was that the dead would be raised bodily at the end; indeed, Pharisees considered those who denied this doctrine (specifically Sadducees) to be damned for doing so.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Jn 11:25–27.

---

## OUTLINE:

### I. (v1-16) ENCOUNTER WITH BAD NEWS

- A. (v1) “Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, **the village of Mary and her sister Martha.**”
  - 1. This description differentiates between the two cities of Bethany
- B. (v2) “It was **Mary** who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.”
  - 1. Mark 14:3-9 Mary worshipped Jesus as Messiah

- C. (v3-4) *“So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.””*<sup>4</sup> *But when Jesus heard it he said, **“This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”**”*
1. Jesus loved Lazarus and Mary & Martha sent word to get Jesus to come to him
  2. Jesus reveals the reason that Lazarus is sick
    - a) *That the Son of God (Jesus) will be glorified*
- D. (v5-6) *“Now **Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.**”*<sup>6</sup> *So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, **he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.**”*
1. Jesus loved the family
  2. Jesus loved them individually and uniquely
  3. Jesus’ love for the Father and the revelation of His glory was his greatest love, therefore he had to wait knowing Lazarus would die (greater good)
- E. (v7-8) *“Then after this he said to the disciples, **“Let us go to Judea again.”**”*<sup>8</sup> *The disciples said to him, **“Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?”**”*
1. Love for the elect propelled Jesus back to the place where His life was endangered
  2. There was no question of if He would go as He had to go
- F. (v9-10) *“<sup>9</sup> 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.**”*<sup>10</sup> ***But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”**”*
1. Walking in the day is illustrative of the period of Jesus’ earthly ministry
  2. The day was protected by God the Father as His will was illuminated and the path of His will sovereignly protected
    - a) *They could not kill Jesus until God was ready to sacrifice His own son*
  3. Those who walk in the night is representative of an unregenerate person who cannot understand the things of God nor identify the Son of God
- G. (v11-13) *“After saying these things, he said to them, **“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”**”*<sup>12</sup> *The disciples said to him, **“Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”**”*<sup>13</sup> *Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.”*
1. Jesus alone could go and heal Lazarus
  2. Jesus alone could go to the cross and heal our sin-sick hearts

3. Jesus knew Lazarus was dead but the sign was as much meant for them as those who hear it today as each sign pointed out more and more clearly the identity of Jesus as Son of God
- H. (v14-15) *“<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “**Lazarus has died,** <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”*
1. *Jesus again makes it clear that He waited those 3 days to be sure Lazarus was good and dead*
    - a) It is in the moments of utter impossibility that it can only be God and Lazarus was the greatest miracle/sign to this point
    - b) The miraculous was a must for God to reveal the identity of Jesus His Son
- I. (v16) *“<sup>16</sup> So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “**Let us also go, that we may die with him.**”*
1. Thomas at this moment makes a statement that reflects a heart of courage and devotion to the Lord Jesus
  2. Thomas knew Jesus’ life was in jeopardy and was already prepared to die with Him
  3. Thomas’ thought is misguided but his motives appear to be pure

## II. (v17-27) ENCOUNTER WITH MARTHA

- A. (v17) *“<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that **Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.**”*
1. Lazarus was alive when Jesus got the news he was sick but must have died shortly after he got the news
  2. Jesus being God knew he had been dead for a while yet still got in no hurry
  3. Jesus is always on time even though we can’t see the answers as He does beforehand
- B. (v18-20) *“Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and **many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.** <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.”*
1. We see professional wailers were on the scene as was the custom in Judea
    - a) *This consoling by the community was considered religious and social responsibility*
    - b) *The fact that God had orchestrated this miracle/sign in front of this huge crowd was ideal*

c) *The fact that this sign was a foreshadowing of His own death and resurrection*

2. Martha's grief caused her to run

a) *in anticipation of Jesus*

b) *In love to see Jesus in this tough time*

c) *Mary and Martha responded differently but both were experiencing the same emotions*

(1) Another place of contrast between Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42

3. Mary was compelled to stay a grieve

a) We all respond to grief in different ways but we must all end up face to face with Jesus in the end

(1) *Either way, Jesus finds us in these times (display of love)*

C. (v21-22) *"**21** 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 from God, God will give you."*

1. This should be accepted as faith in Jesus' ability to heal the sick

2. Martha knew God heard and answered Jesus' prayers

3. Martha knew that Jesus and the Father's relationship

D. (v23-24) *"Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**" **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

1. Martha believed Lazarus would raise in the end (last day/day of the Lord/second coming)

2. Martha did not understand that Jesus had the power to raise from the dead at that moment

E. (v25-26) *"**25** Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,** **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

1. This is the 5th "I AM" statement of Jesus

2. The Father has given Him life in Himself and is dependent upon no one else for life

3. Jesus can give life to whom He wishes in his earthly ministry

4. Jesus has the power to raise the dead on the last day

5. Jesus makes it clear that physical death does not separate us from God

a) *This speaks against Spirit Sleep*

F. (v27) *"**27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

1. Martha expresses belief in Jesus as the Son of God

2. Martha expresses faith in Jesus as the Christ, the messiah of God

### III. (v28-37) ENCOUNTER WITH MARY & MOURNERS

- A. (v28-30) <sup>28</sup> *When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."* <sup>29</sup> *And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him."*
1. Mary responded once Jesus was on the scene
  2. The message was most likely meant to draw Mary away from the mourners secretly (intent)
  3. Mary was ready to see Jesus and arose quickly
  4. Mary needed to see Jesus in this time (necessity)
  5. Jesus was still where he had met with Martha therefore He was waiting on Mary to come to Him in this time of need
  6. Jesus had made the first move towards Mary but a response was necessary if she wanted to be comforted by Jesus
- B. (v31) <sup>31</sup> *When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there."*
1. This meeting was personal
  2. This meeting also summoned a crowd
    - a) *People often see the results and even the journey we are walking with Jesus in real-time*
- C. (v32) <sup>32</sup> *Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*
1. Mary went straight to Jesus once she was summoned by Him
  2. Mary expressed faith in Jesus' power to heal
  3. Mary also recognizes that Jesus chose not to be there before Lazarus died (questioning within herself as to why)
  4. Mary addresses the realization that Lazarus is gone and that it felt final to her (earthly journey over)
  5. Mary knew that Jesus was greater/ had power over sickness and death
- D. (v33) ***When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.***
1. Jesus connected with the loss (His Human nature was greatly grieved at their pain)
  2. Jesus connected with Mary as a personal friend (representative of a child of God)
  3. Jesus connected with the crowd as mankind (representative of the human condition)



4. **“Deeply moved”**- *embrimaomai*. It is a rare word, found only here and in 11:38 in the Fourth Gospel
  - a) *Moved with compassion (over what sin has done)*
  - b) *Moved with anger (at faithless weeping)*
  - c) *Moved with both at the same time*
  - d) *This term also indicates an audible groan that paired with His upset state*
  
5. **“Greatly Troubled”**- the same strong verb used in 12:27; 13:21 therefore not just an emotional and empathetic response but was infused with righteous anger
  - a) *His troubled Spirit connects with the grieving friends (Humanity) & world but in His righteousness (Deity) He was angry*
  - b) *Jesus shows the attributes of justice and righteousness at the same time love and mercy*
    - (1) We are called to hate the sin and love the sinners
    - (2) The world that is enemies of God is also the object of His love and in which He is in pursuit of (the elect)

E. (v34) <sup>34</sup> *And he said, “**Where have you laid him?**” They said to him, “**Lord, come and see.**”*

1. Jesus desired to heal
2. Jesus was focused on the miracle at hand
3. Jesus was not overwhelmed by the anger over sin or the compassion and empathy for those hurting

F. (v35) **“Jesus Wept”**

1. The shortest verse in all of the Bible brings a beautiful view of the God Man, Jesus
2. The same sin of unbelief and the outrage over what sin does to His creation is realized in a display of grief
  - a) *It is anger and compassion colliding in a critical spot for all of the crowd to see*
  - b) *Jesus is angry over sin and He knows our pain and yet it is also angry over our state of unbelief when we have been given the truth*

G. (v36-37) <sup>36</sup> *So the Jews said, “**See how he loved him!**”* <sup>37</sup> *But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”*

1. The people questioned Jesus’ motives and ability before He resurrected Lazarus
2. We often at times do not understand God’s timing in healing
3. Many times we do not understand His ways

4. But Jesus reveals that He had a plan the whole way and did not deviate from that plan

#### IV. (v38-44) ENCOUNTER WITH THE SON OF GOD

- A. (v38) <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, **deeply moved again**, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.
  1. When Jesus sees the scene of faithless weeping His anger and compassion was roused again
- B. (v39) <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, **“Take away the stone.”** Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, **“Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead for four days.”**
  1. Jewish belief was that the soul of the dead person stayed around the body for three days therefore all hope was lost as Lazarus was in Abraham’s bosom
  2. Four days the body would have been in decomposition as they did not embalm as we do today
  3. Martha’s faith was limited as ours is at times and we need the prayer for more faith in these inconceivable moments
- C. (v40) <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, **“Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”**
  1. This was a reminder to focus on who He is and not the circumstances
  2. Jesus had brought all of this about to grow their faith in who He is and what ultimately His mission is in the end
- D. (v41-42) <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And **Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”**
  1. Jesus speaks intimately to the Father
  2. Here we are promised that Jesus our intercessor always has the ear and will of the father in absolute harmony
  3. Jesus had the crowd in mind and not just the family
  4. Jesus had you and me in mind when He performed this miracle/sign
- E. (v43-44) <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, **he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”** <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **“Unbind him, and let him go.”**
  1. At the time of Christ’s return, He will call all the dead in Christ out of the grave just the same

2. If Jesus had not called Lazarus by name then all of the dead would have come out of the grave then
  3. Whatever Jesus commands will happen (absolute authority is in Jesus's hands)
  4. Just as the Father spoke the world into existence so the Son of God speaks life into what was dead
  5. Jesus miracle here illustrates that when He raises the Spiritually dead to life they are set free from death and from the power of Satan
  6. This resurrection points to the day that Jesus will resurrect all true believers physically (foreshadowing)
- 

**Application:**

- Each one of us grieves in different ways but Jesus knows how we feel because of Lazarus.
  - Martha and Mary were in different places over Lazarus' death, but they both needed Jesus at that moment
  - We must be willing to allow Jesus to grow our faith in these moments
- 

“The raising of Lazarus from the dead was not our Lord’s last miracle before the Cross, but it was certainly His greatest and the one that aroused the most response both from His friends and His enemies...”

- WARREN WIERSBE

---

