



Study 8: Resurrection and Life

John 11:1-27

Prepare *(Pray aloud together.)*



**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him,

and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness has not overcome it.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**



Reflect *(Take a moment to quiet yourself.)*

Love is something more stern and splendid than mere kindness.

C.S. Lewis



“His sisters sent a message to Jesus saying, Lord, the friend whom you love is sick.” By these words they appeal to his affections, they lay claim to his friendship, they call on his love, urging their familiar relationship with him to persuade him to relieve their distress. But for Christ it was more important to conquer death than to cure disease. He showed his love for his friend not by healing him but by calling him back from the grave.

Peter Chrysologus



I AM

Listen

John 11:1-27

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ 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."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking 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 anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 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." 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 on the last day." 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?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Consider

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. This family is familiar to John – and to us. Mary and Martha’s interactions with Jesus in the gospels give readers so much to consider! These sisters hosted Jesus and others – Mary sat at his feet to learn and Martha busily attended to the duties of a hostess. John points out that Mary is the one that anointed the Lord with oil and wiped his feet with her hair. They have shared much life with one another and now, they experience death together.

The story radiates many feelings: concern, confusion, grief, hope, and wonder, but above all, love. John wants no one to doubt how *much* Jesus loves Lazarus and his sisters – he repeats it again and again! And in love, Jesus delays coming to aid Lazarus in his illness. Imagine for a moment what it might have been like for the sisters to send the note and receive no response. Would that feel like love?

Jesus’ delay is purposeful, one that leads Martha to a conversation filled with love. A conversation that leads Jesus to proclaim, once again, that “I Am...”. As you go through the questions below, consider how God’s timing, love, faith and *life* work together.

Study

1. **Warm-up:** Which phrase describes you best: *perpetually early, right on time, or always late?* Why?
2. In verses 1 and 2, who are the people listed and what is the setting? What do we learn about them?
 - a. In other gospel stories, we are not always given such details about people. Why do you think John shares these specifics here?
3. What does the sisters’ message say? What tone do you hear?
 - a. Does anything strike you about the message? Share together.
 - b. If you were Mary and Martha, what might you think or how might it feel to send this message to Jesus?

4. In verse 4, what reason does Jesus give for the purpose of Lazarus' illness?
 - a. In the book of John, glory is most commonly referring to God's revelation of Himself, His self-disclosure. How do you respond to Jesus' intention to glorify the Father in Lazarus' death?
 - b. What difference might it make to you that God's glory is a reason for what happens in your story?

5. In verse 5, what does John remind the reader?
 - a. In light of that, what decision does Jesus make in verse 6?
 - b. How does it sit with you that Jesus stayed two days longer?
 - c. How can a delay be a sign of love?
 - d. Have you ever felt this tension in your own life – the tension between knowing you're loved and experiencing God's "delay"? What was that like?

6. In verses 7-8, when Jesus decides it is time to go, what do the disciples seem concerned about?
 - a. How does Jesus respond to their concern in verses 9-10? What do you think Jesus is trying to help the disciples understand?

7. In verse 11, what does Jesus intend to do when he gets to Judea?
 - a. The disciples are still confused! How do they interpret Jesus' statement?
 - b. To clear up their confusion, Jesus makes his intentions plain. What are they in verses 14-15?

8. Grant Osborne tells us that Jews buried people the very day they died. "The rabbis believed the soul lingered near the grave for three days, hoping to reenter the body, but as decomposition begins, it leaves."
 - a. Why do you think John includes this detail about how long Lazarus has been dead?

9. When Martha hears that Jesus is coming, she leaves to go meet him but Mary stays behind. In verses 21-22, what does Martha say to Jesus when she reaches him?
- What do you hear in her words?
 - Would you consider this a statement of faith? Why or why not?
 - What is it like to come to Jesus with what you *really* think? Does Martha's boldness encourage or challenge you in any way?
10. When we get to verse 23, Jesus and Martha enter into a dynamic conversation.
- In verse 23, what comfort does Jesus offer Martha? What do you make of her response?
 - In verse 25, what does Jesus reveal to her about Himself?
 - What is He calling her to believe? What promise is there for those who believe?
 - What is Jesus inviting Martha to consider about Himself? About death?
11. After offering Martha these wondrous truths, what does Jesus ask her in verse 27?
- What does Martha's response reveal about what she believes?
 - Through this conversation, how has Jesus entered into Martha's grief and experience of death?
 - What is it like to believe God right in the middle of a moment of your own disappointment, grief, or confusion? Share together.

Together



Pray

(Please pray together the bold type)

**Our Father,
Your Son is your Word.
He makes you known to us.**

**Lord Jesus, we see your glory.
You are full of grace and truth.
We believe you.
We receive you.**

We are your children, God.

*Please quiet yourself, reflect, pray silently for one minute:
What moves you about Jesus? Tell Him.
What convicts you in your own heart? Offer it to Him
Where do you feel need today? Share it with Him.*

*Please pray responsively **the bold type**:*

You are the Sent One, the Messiah.

Lord, I worship you.

You are the Bread of Life.

Lord, I am hungry. Nourish me,

You are the Light of the World.

Lord, I am blind by myself. Open my eyes.

You are the Door.

Lord, I feel vulnerable to danger. Keep me safe.

You are the Shepherd.

Lord, I am prone to wander. Lead me.

You are the Resurrection and the Life.

Lord, I lay in dust without you. Raise me up.

You are the Way.

Lord, I am lost without you. Show me.

You are the Vine. We are the branches.

Lord, abide in me. I abide in you.

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
Amen.**