

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 21ST, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

DEATH (JOHN 11:1–16)

FRIENDS

We are introduced to Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, friends of Jesus. It seems that they were Jesus followers and may have spent time with Him in Judea.

- Mary and Martha's experience with Jesus led them to believe that Jesus could help in their time of great need. So, they sent Him a message.

DELAY

When Jesus hears the message, He declares that Lazarus' life isn't over. So, why did He wait?

- **Remember that God always knows more than we do and will be glorified in what He does in His time. We draw comfort in knowing that it will also be for our good. We must be patient.**

DEATH

Death was everywhere. Lazarus was already dead, and the journey to Judea would surely result in the stoning of Jesus and His disciples.

- **Jesus encouraged His disciples to walk in the light and be seen. They were ready to walk to their deaths. Are we ready to walk in the light?**

LIFE (JOHN 11:17–27)

COMFORT

Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days, and many had come to comfort the family. The arrival of Jesus draws Martha out of the house to meet her Messiah.

- **Even in a time of great loss, we can find comfort and refuge in the presence of Jesus. We may have to step away from our "comfort" to get closer to His.**

HOPE

Jesus tells Martha that her brother will rise again... she misunderstood. Jesus tells her that He is the resurrection and the life, that the one who believes in Him will live, even if he dies... she believed but didn't expect it.

- **As God calls us and comforts us, we remember that His plan is so much bigger than what we understand or expect.**

SORROW (JOHN 11:28–37)

GRIEF

When Mary hears that Jesus is calling for her, she runs to Him, and her crowd of counselors follows. Her loss was overwhelming, but her faith in Jesus was still strong.

- **Her words were not accusatory; they were a confession of her faith in Jesus' power over sickness.**

EMOTION

Mary, Martha, and even the mourners were displaying sincere emotion at the death of Lazarus. Jesus too displayed emotion: anger because of sin and sorrow because of its effect on the ones He loves.

- **Jesus isn't indifferent to our grief, pain, and suffering. He is committed to action against the sin in and around us.**

ALIVE (JOHN 11:38–44)

RESURRECTED

Lazarus' death was real. Four days in the tomb, wrapped in graveclothes, and the stench of death was upon him. It was time for Jesus to reveal His power over life and death.

- **We don't have this power, Jesus does. Our lives are changed when we hear Him call our name and we walk out of our graves and into His light.**

PATHS (JOHN 11:45–57)

UNBELIEVABLE

Two groups of people saw the same miracle. One group saw a savior, the other an opportunity.

- **The Sanhedrin, a council of 70 Pharisees and Sadducees, declared that Jesus must die to protect their position and even their nation. The upcoming Passover would be their next opportunity to take Him into custody.**

FRIENDSHIP

- Jesus understands what it takes to be a friend.
- **As fellow followers of Jesus, we should pray for one another—always.**
- **When we pray, we may not completely understand what will happen next. Our faith will keep us praying because we know His timing is perfect.**

EXPECTATION

- We know what we know. But there is more to learn.
- **In times of great sorrow, God is doing something bigger. In times of great joy, God is doing something bigger.**
- **Sometimes, it feels like grief is all we can know. We must remember that God has more to reveal and look to Him for comfort.**

REAL LIFE

- Christians tend to see people as "saved" or "lost."
- **We may miss life because we're afraid to consider "real" or "fake."**
- **As authentic followers of Christ, we can live knowing that He is always working for our good and His glory, living in expectation of what He will do next. Are we living in fear or faith?**