

# JOHN 11:1-57

March 17, 2021

1. Read John 11:1-6. Note the different places in this passage revealing the deep affection between Jesus and Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

What might be implied in the sisters' message sent to Jesus in verse 3?

What knowledge does Jesus express about this illness? How could He know this?

Jesus also knows God's divine purpose for this illness. Record it here.

What is most surprising about Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus' illness?

2. Read John 11:6-16 and look back at John 8:58-59 and John 10:31, 39-40. Why are the disciples afraid to return to Judea?

3. In John 11:14, what does Jesus reveal about Lazarus' current state?

In verse 15, we learn that Jesus' delay was purposeful. Look closely at Jesus' words and record who will benefit most from witnessing the coming miracle. How will they benefit?

4. What do you learn about Thomas based on his statement to the other disciples in John 11:16?

Have you ever faced something frightening, sustained only by the knowledge Jesus was with you and directing you? Describe that time and share how Jesus sustained and strengthened you.

5. Read about Jesus' encounter with Martha in Bethany in John 11:17-27. What does Martha say in verse 21? From this statement, what does Martha believe about Jesus?

What does she say in verse 22? From this statement, what does Martha believe about Jesus?

6. What shocking promise does Jesus make in John 11:23?

In response to Jesus' promise about Lazarus, Martha states her belief in a future resurrection. Read about this in Daniel 12:2 and describe it. When does Martha believe this will happen?

7. In John 11:25 Jesus makes another "I am" statement. What does He claim?

Look up the definition for "resurrect" and write it down.

What two promises does Jesus make immediately following His "I am" statement?

Who is spiritually dead according to Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:1-2?

Look up the following verses and record the great gift given by Jesus. What must take place to receive it?

John 3:16

John 5:24

John 10:27-28

8. The great promise of Jesus requires a response. What did Jesus ask Martha in John 11:26?

Consider her answer and write down all she believes about Jesus' identity.

Share with your group when Jesus first asked you this question and how you responded.

9. Now read about Jesus' encounter with Mary in John 11:28-36. How does Mary, in the throes of great grief, respond when Jesus calls her in verses 29 and 32?

Mary and Jesus are not alone. Who followed Mary and witnessed this encounter? Look back at John 11:19 and note the size of this gathering.

10. What does Jesus observe in verse 33, and how does He respond in verses 33-36?

Also read the following verses. What do you learn about Jesus and suffering?

Psalm 34:17-18

Isaiah 53:3-4

11. Read John 11:38-44. Before the miracle, Jesus prays to His Father in verses 41-42. What is Jesus' claim in this prayer?

Who is supposed to hear this claim? What are they to believe?

12. Describe the events of John 11:43-44 in your own detailed and dramatic words.

How do these events validate the claims Jesus has been making?

13. Read John 11:45-57. Among the many witnesses to Lazarus' resurrection, there were only two reactions. Read these in verses 45-46 and list them here.

Does anyone refute the fact that Jesus raised Lazarus from death to life?

The chief priests and the Pharisees were the religious and political leaders of Israel. According to their words in verses 47-48, what threat does Jesus pose?

What plans are made to eliminate this threat?

14. Pick one character in this story: Thomas, Mary or Martha. Imagine and write down what they would have missed if they had abandoned Jesus early in the story.

How can this encourage and direct you the next time you face a frightening or heartbreaking situation?

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## True Disciples Stay With Jesus

John 11:1-57

### News of Lazarus' Illness

11:1-16

Jesus reveals divine knowledge of God's purpose. God's glory will shine through God's Son.

After a two day delay, Jesus prepares to go to Judea, the center of hostility.

Jesus expresses knowledge of Lazarus' death for the purpose of strengthening the disciples' faith.

Despite great \_\_\_\_\_, Thomas stays with Jesus. If we die there...

### Jesus Travels to Bethany

11:17-37

Martha rushes to meet Jesus with faith and \_\_\_\_\_. If you had been here...

Jesus promise Lazarus will rise again.

Jesus declares, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

- Jesus is the overcomer of Satan, sin, and death.
- He grants spiritual life from spiritual death to all who believe.

Martha makes a bold profession of faith.

Mary rushes to Jesus with devotion, submission, and grief. If you had been here...

Jesus weeps, showing compassion for humankind and anger for the tyranny of Satan.

### The Resurrection of Lazarus

11:38-44

Martha protests, but Jesus reminds her of His promise and requests the removal of the stone.

Jesus prays to show the witnesses He is acting with God, for God and through God.

Lazarus is resurrected, authenticating Jesus' claim to be God's Son who \_\_\_\_\_ people to new life.

### Responses to the Miracle

11:45-57

All witness an indisputable miracle. Some believe and some report to the enemy.

Caiaphas, the high priest, formally presents the plan to kill Jesus.

Caiaphas' words prophesy Jesus' atoning work that creates the New Testament church.

Jesus withdraws further, avoiding the cross until the appointed time.

### The answer to every "If" is stay with Jesus and wait for a greater vision of His identity and power.

- Like Thomas, stay with Jesus when you are afraid and terrified.  
Learn that you are always safe when you are within the will of God.
- Like Martha, stay with Jesus when your hopes are crushed.  
Learn that faith is centered on the identity of Jesus and the promises of His Word.
- Like Mary, stay with Jesus when your heart is broken and your prayer unanswered.  
Learn that His compassion flows and His great plan will one day wipe away every tear.

**JESUS the WORD – John 11:1-57**

**March 17-18, 2021**

**JOHN 1:4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**JOHN 8:44b** He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**EPHESIANS 2:1-2** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

**EPHESIANS 2:4-5** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

**JEREMIAH 29:13** “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

**ISAIAH 53:3-4** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

**EPHESIANS 2:13-14** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

**EPHESIANS 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

**2 CHRONICLES 16:9 (NIV)** “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”