

## “The Resurrection and the Life”

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### **Read John 11:18-44**

<sup>18</sup>Now 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 Lazarus. <sup>20</sup>Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, left to meet Him. But Mary stayed at 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 of God, He will give You.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup>Martha said, “I know 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; he who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in Me will 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, even He who was to come into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went away and returned to Mary her sister, and said to her privately, “The Teacher has come near, and he is calling for you.”

<sup>29</sup>And when she heard this, she got up immediately, and left to go and meet Him. <sup>30</sup>Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met Him. <sup>31</sup>Then those Jews who were with Mary and were consoling her, when they saw her get up and go out, followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to weep.

<sup>32</sup>Therefore, when Mary came to where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell down at His feet, and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and those Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, “Where have you laid him?” And they said, “Lord, come and see.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup>So the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some said, “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind, have kept this man also from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Jesus, again deeply moved within, came to the tomb. It was a cave, with a stone lying against it. <sup>39</sup>So Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” But Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

<sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup>So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. <sup>42</sup>I know that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You have sent Me.” <sup>43</sup>And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” <sup>44</sup>And the man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Then Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Describe the main characters in this story, and their relationship to Jesus.
2. Why would Lazarus' death be a hardship for this family? What expectations did they have of Jesus when they sent for Him, and what impact did His delay — and Lazarus's subsequent death — have? Who else had expectations of Jesus?
3. How did Martha and Mary deal with their deep disappointment in Jesus? Why did Jesus weep?
4. What does this story symbolize for us, spiritually?
5. What are some other take aways that you have received from this narrative about the raising of Lazarus?
6. Describe how Jesus came into your life and called you forth, and freed you from your grave clothes.