

# Session 6 – I AM the the Resurrection and the Life

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John 11:1–44

Jesus' words invite us to consider  
a deeper question:

**What does it mean to trust God  
when hope seems lost?**



# How to Use This Study

**This series is designed to be experienced in two stages.**

- **Personal Study During the Week**

Each participant reads the Scripture and works through the Study Guide before the group meeting.

- **Group Discussion Together**

When the group gathers, the Facilitator and Student Guides help guide conversation, reflection, and prayer based on the material everyone has already explored.

- This format allows the group to move beyond surface discussion and engage the Bible more deeply together.



# Where We Are in John's Gospel

John's Gospel continues revealing who Jesus truly is.

Each moment builds on the last.

- **Session 1 — The Word Became Flesh (John 1)**
  - **Session 2 — I AM the Bread of Life (John 6)**
- **Session 3 — I AM the Light of the World (John 8)**
  - **Session 4 — I AM the Door (John 10:1–10)**
- **Session 5 — I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–18)**

Now the story moves into one of the most powerful moments in John's Gospel.

Jesus declares:

**“I am the resurrection and the life.”**

*(John 11:1-44)*



# The Setting of the Story

John 11 introduces a crisis. Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, becomes seriously ill.

His sisters, Mary and Martha, send word to Jesus.

*11 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. <sup>2</sup> This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. <sup>3</sup> So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."*

*John 11:1-3*

Their message is simple:  
“The one you love is sick.”

**This moment sets the stage for one of the most revealing events in Jesus' ministry.**



# An Unexpected Response

When Jesus hears the news, His response surprises everyone.

*<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” <sup>5</sup> So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> he stayed where he was for the next two days.*

*John 11:4-6*

Jesus says the illness will ultimately reveal God’s glory.  
Then something unexpected happens.

Jesus **waits two more days** before traveling to Bethany.  
This delay becomes central to the story.



# When God Seems Late

**From the perspective of Mary and Martha, the delay must have been confusing.**

**If Jesus loved Lazarus, why wait?  
Why not come immediately?**

This moment raises a difficult but important question:  
**What happens when God does not act on our timeline?**



# The Disciples' Concern

When Jesus finally decides to return to Judea, the disciples hesitate.

*<sup>7</sup> Finally, he said to his disciples, “**Let’s go back to Judea.**” <sup>8</sup> But his disciples objected. “Rabbi,” they said, “only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?”*

*John 11:1-3*

The last time Jesus was there, people tried to stone Him.  
Returning now would be dangerous.

Yet Jesus moves forward anyway.

The path toward Lazarus also moves Jesus closer to the  
cross.



# Lazarus Has Died

Jesus delivers some confusing news:

*<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, “There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light.” <sup>11</sup> Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” <sup>13</sup> They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. <sup>14</sup> So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”*

*John 11:14-15*

**The coming miracle will reveal something profound about who He truly is.**



# Martha Meets Jesus

When Jesus arrives near Bethany, Martha goes out to meet Him. Her words reveal both grief and faith.

*<sup>20</sup> When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”*

John 10:20-22

**Her statement expresses a tension many believers feel:**

**Faith in Jesus — mixed with deep disappointment.**



# Hope Beyond Death

Jesus responds to Martha with a promise.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus told her, ***“Your brother will rise again.”*** <sup>24</sup> “Yes,” Martha said, *“he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”*

John 11:23-24

**Martha assumes Jesus is referring to the future resurrection at the end of time.**

**But Jesus is about to reveal something greater.**



# The Declaration

Jesus makes one of the most powerful statements in the Gospel of John.

<sup>25</sup> Jesus told her, ***“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.”***

John 11:25

**This is not merely a promise about the future.**

Jesus is declaring that **life itself is found in Him.**

**Resurrection is not just an event.  
It is a person.**



# Life That Cannot Be Destroyed

Jesus continues:

***<sup>25</sup> Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”***

John 11:25

## She declares that Jesus is:

- the Messiah
- the Son of God
- the one sent into the world

Her confession echoes the purpose of John's Gospel itself.



# The Question of Faith

Jesus continues:

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. **Do you believe this, Martha?**”*

John 11:25-26

**This question moves the story from theology to personal response.**

**The miracle that follows will reveal Jesus’ power.**

**But we must still choose whether to trust Him.**



# Martha's Confession

Martha responds with one of the strongest statements of faith in the Gospel.

*27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”*

John 11:27

**This question moves the story from theology to personal response.**

**The miracle that follows will reveal Jesus' power.**

**But we must still choose whether to trust Him.**



# Jesus Weeps

Soon Mary arrives, grieving with others from the community. Seeing their sorrow deeply moves Jesus.

*<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus wept.*

John 11:35

**This moment reveals something profound about the heart of Christ.**

**Even knowing resurrection is coming, Jesus enters into human grief.**

**Jesus knows exactly what it is like to be one of us!**



# The Stone at the Tomb

Jesus approaches the tomb.

38 ...as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. 39 *“Roll the stone aside,”* Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

John 11:38-39

Lazarus has been dead four days.

The stone covering the tomb represents the **finality of death.**

The situation appears **obviously beyond hope.**

But something not as obvious was about to change  
**EVERYTHING!**



# A Prayer of Trust

Before performing the miracle, Jesus prays.

<sup>40</sup> Jesus responded, *“Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”* <sup>41</sup> So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, *“Father, thank you for hearing me. <sup>42</sup> You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”*

John 11:40-42

His prayer acknowledges the Father and reveals that what is about to happen is meant to help others believe.

**The miracle is not about spectacle.**  
**It is about revelation.**



# Lazarus, Come Out

Jesus calls into the darkness of the tomb.

<sup>43</sup> Then Jesus shouted, “*Lazarus, come out!*” <sup>44</sup> And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “*Unwrap him and let him go!*”

John 11:40-42

The man who had been dead walks out of the tomb.

Life returns where death once ruled.

**This is the climactic sign of Jesus’ ministry in John’s Gospel.**



# What This Miracle Reveals

The raising of Lazarus shows several truths about Jesus:

- He has authority over death
- His power reveals the glory of God
  - His words bring life
- Faith is invited even in the face of loss

**This miracle prepares the way for Jesus' own resurrection.**



# Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus delayed before coming to Bethany?
2. What does Jesus' question — "Do you believe this?" — mean for us today?
3. What does it reveal about Jesus that He both wept and raised Lazarus?
4. Where in your life do you need to trust Christ as the source of life and hope?



# Key Takeaway

Jesus does not merely promise resurrection.

**He is the resurrection and the life.**

Where Jesus is present, death does not have the final word.

The question that echoes through this story is the same question Jesus asked Martha:

**“Do you believe this?”**

