



THE SIGN OF HIS POWER OVER DEATH

BIG IDEA: Jesus offers the hope of a new life.

DATE: Sunday, March 1 and Wednesday, March 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 11:25-27; 38-44

OPENING QUESTION

What does it take for you to call the doctor? *At the first sign of a cold or excruciating pain? Why do you think that is?*

SETTING THE STAGE

Today we are studying the seventh and final sign: raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus's first miracle was at a wedding and His last takes place at a funeral. The story in John 11 begins with a family in crisis: Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus, who is gravely ill. These siblings lived in Bethany, a village near Jerusalem. Mary is identified as the woman who anointed Jesus's feet with perfume and wiped them with her hair, an act of worship and devotion that would occur later in John's Gospel. This seemingly spurious detail speaks to the deep connection between Jesus and the family. Understanding the closeness of their relationship, Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick" (John 11:3). This simple yet profound statement highlights both their faith in Jesus's love and their expectation that He will respond quickly to help.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:25-27; 38-44 (CSB)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world."

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ "Remove the stone," Jesus said. Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." ⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go."

DISCUSSION

READ JOHN 11:25-27

- Summarize what Jesus told Martha in verses 25-26.
- Jesus states a truth about Himself, then asks Martha a question. What does He ask her? What does her response reveal?
- Even on her darkest day, Martha confesses her faith in Jesus – “I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.” The most important question we will ever answer is “Who is Jesus to me?” And do I still answer it the same way when I am going through my darkest day?

READ JOHN 11:38-40

- What do we learn about Jesus from His emotional response at the tomb of His friend?
- A lot of us have experienced grief over losing a loved one. We were probably angry, confused and deeply troubled. What are some things that helped you in dealing with your grief? Who is grieving a loss that you could reach out to?
- In verse 39 Jesus tells Martha to remove the stone of Lazarus’ grave, but she objects. What are some stones or barriers to belief that people have today?
- What excuses or barriers prevent *us* from obeying God’s commands?

READ JOHN 11:41-44

- Have you ever thanked God for a prayer He hasn’t yet answered?
- How has God grown your faith by the way He has acted in someone else’s life?
- What are some lessons we can learn from this seventh sign from Jesus?

RESPONSE

Consider the different people gathered at this amazing scene. Which one do you relate to?

- Martha: You know the right things about what it means to follow Jesus; you can quote verses, but when it comes to personally applying truth to your life, you struggle.
- Mary: You delay being in the presence of Jesus.
- People in the crowd: You respond more with skepticism and continue in false emotion rather than experiencing the true nature of Jesus.
- Lazarus: You need new life! You have been feeling dead spiritually and need to respond or recommit to the call of Jesus.

READING PLAN

3/1 – Matthew 3; 3/2 – Matthew 4; 3/3 – Luke 3; 3/4 – Hebrews 9; 3/5 – Hebrews 10; 3/6 – Revelation 5; 3/7 – John 1; *Memory Verse - Hebrews 10:22*