When Jesus Shows Up, He Changes Everything!

Miraculous, Week Five

John 11:1-44 NLT

[1] A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. [2] 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. [3] So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." [4] 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." [5] So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, [6] he stayed where he was for the next two days.

[7] Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." [8] 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?" [9] 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. [10] But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light."

[11] Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up." [12] The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" [13] They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. [14] So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. [15] And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

[16] Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus." [17] When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. [18] Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, [19] and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

[20] When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. [21] Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22] But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." [23] Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

[24] "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." [25] Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. [26] Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will
never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?” [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.”

[28] Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.” [29] So Mary immediately went to him. [30] Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. [31] When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there.

[32] When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” [33] When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. [34] “Where have you put him?” he asked them. They told him, “Lord, come and see.”

[35] Then Jesus wept. [36] The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!” [37] But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?” [38] Jesus was still angry 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.” [40] Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”

[41] So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. [42] 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.”

[43] Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” [44] 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!”

Everything in this picture seems exactly as it should be.

- Death brings about mourning. Everybody is sad.
- And mourning is something we do together in community.
- Death feels so final, even though we might believe there’s “more.”

But the truth is... Jesus changed everything. Everything was different after this miracle - for Lazarus, for the sisters, for Jesus, for the Jewish priests and religious leaders, etc.
I want us to answer one very simple, very vital question today…

**Do you believe that Jesus can make it better?**

We live with grief.
We live with doubt.
We live with questions.

And that’s okay, but as our faith grows, we need to understand that Jesus makes it ALL better - for the world, for us, for eternity.

What does Jesus make better?

- Creation, which groans today, will be renovated forever.
- Sin, death, and hell ruled for a season, but Jesus makes it all better.
- Our pain and suffering continue, but Jesus will absolutely make it all better.

Why? How? Because… Jesus is the resurrection and the life!

And this is what life is all about! Because of the work Jesus did on the cross and in his own resurrection (which was foreshadowed by the resuscitation of Lazarus, WE WILL LIVE!

**1 Corinthians 15:53-57 GW**

[53] This body that decays must be changed into a body that cannot decay. This mortal body must be changed into a body that will live forever. [54] When this body that decays is changed into a body that cannot decay, and this mortal body is changed into a body that will live forever, then the teaching of Scripture will come true: “Death is turned into victory! [55] Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?” [56] Sin gives death its sting, and God’s standards give sin its power. [57] Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You CAN believe today, and everything will change! You’ll have hope!

Hope for your future. Hope for your relationships. Hope for your kids. Hope for this generation. Hope for the community around you. **Hope forever!!!**