



Previously in John

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- In **Ch. 2** Jesus performed his first **miracle** or **sign**, when he turned water into wine at a wedding.
- In **Ch. 4**, we witnessed Christ's dialog with the Samaritan **woman at the well**.
- In **Ch. 7** at **Jerusalem** for a festival, he promised **rivers of living water** to all who would believe in him.
- Last week in **Ch. 10**, Jesus called himself **the Good Shepherd** who lays down his life for the sheep.

# Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

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1. Water into wine 2:1-12
2. Healing an official's son 4:46-54
3. Healing a paralytic 5:1-15
4. Feeding the 5000 6:5-14
5. Walking on water 6:16-24
6. Healing the blind man 9:1-7
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead 11:1-45

# “I am” Sayings in John

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1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12, 9:5
3. I am the gate (or “door”) 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

# John 11 Introduction

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- This chapter will show us Christ in his perfect humanity, identifying with his close friends in need.
- It will also show us Christ's divine power as he performs his most amazing miracle yet in **John**.

# John 11 Introduction

- The raising of Lazarus points forward to the resurrection of Christ.
- The resurrection of Christ points forward to our own resurrection.

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## Daniel 12:1-3 (ESV)

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book ...

# John 11 Introduction

## Daniel 12:1-3 (ESV)

... <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

# John 11    Key Verses

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- John 11:25-27 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her [that is, to Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall 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, who is coming into the world.”

# John 11 Outline

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1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16
2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27
3. Jesus and Mary 11:28-37
4. Jesus Raises Lazarus 11:38-44
5. The Plans to Kill Jesus 11:45-57

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16

- **11:1** Bethany was located on the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem.
- Mary and Martha are the same sisters we know about from **Luke 10**.
- **11:2** The story of **Mary** anointing the Lord appears in the next chapter.

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16

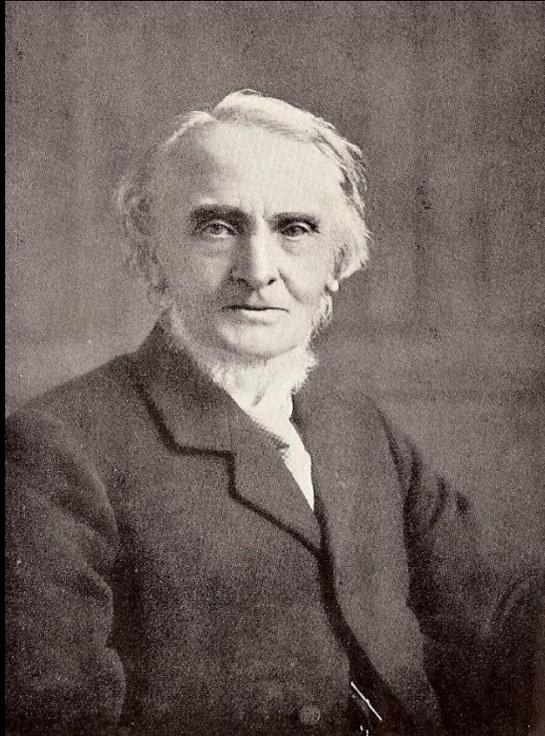
- 11:3-4 This illness does not lead to death
- Or “end in death” as in HCSB, NASB, NIV.
- 11:5-7 Jesus loved ... So, when he heard ... he stayed two days longer
- If he loved them so much, why wait?

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16



- Training bonsai trees.
- You have to bend them slowly and then wait, maybe months, before you bend them more.
- God works the same way as he trains our character and our will into the shape he desires.

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16



*Is it not worth carrying a weight of unfulfilled wishes, and a weariness of unalleviated sorrows, if these do teach us three things, which are one thing – faith, endurance, prayerfulness, and so knit us by a threefold cord that cannot be broken, to the very heart of God Himself? <sup>1</sup>*

*– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)*

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16

- When our Lord and Master makes us wait, and we must continuously look to him in faith, **that is love.**
- **God is training our character and forming our will into the shape he desires.**
- I personally have a lot of unanswered prayers, so God must really need to do a lot of bending in my case.

# 1. The Death of Lazarus 11:1-16

- 11:11 Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.
- Jesus is speaking figuratively.
- 11:14 Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad
- 11:16 Thomas is not very optimistic, but you have to admire his courage.

## 2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27

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- 11:21 Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- Martha has enough faith to believe that Jesus could have healed Lazarus.
- To be fair, it would have taken a lot of faith to assume Jesus would raise Lazarus from the dead.

## 2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27

- Perhaps there were more, but the Gospels record Jesus raising three people from the dead.
  1. The daughter of Jairus the ruler of the synagogue in Capernaum (Mark 5, Luke 8)
  2. The son of the widow in Nain (Luke 7)
  3. Lazarus, here in John 11

## 2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27

- **11:23** D. A. Carson calls this verse *“a masterpiece of planned ambiguity.”*<sup>2</sup>
- On the surface, Jesus is only affirming what the Pharisees believed and Martha with them.
- The majority of Jewish people at this time believed in a general resurrection of the dead.
- This will come at the end of the age.

## 2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27

- Here are our Key Verses, **John 11:25-27** (ESV)

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## 2. Jesus and Martha 11:17-27

- They point us toward the book's purpose statement in **John 20:30-31** (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### 3. Jesus and Mary 11:28-37

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- 11:32 Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
- Mary says the same thing her sister Martha said earlier in 11:21.

### 3. Jesus and Mary 11:28-37

- 11:33 deeply moved Or “was indignant”
- Grant Osborne translates the last part of this verse,
- *“he was outraged in spirit and deeply troubled within himself.”*<sup>3</sup>
- 11:35 Jesus wept
- The shortest verse in the English Bible.

### 3. Jesus and Mary 11:28-37

*Jesus is fully God, but he is also fully human. Two natures in one person, unmixed forever. Even though he knew he was about to perform the miracle, he grieved with the pain and sorrow as well as the death-dealing effects of sin on those he loves.*<sup>4</sup>

*– Tony Evans*



### 3. Jesus and Mary 11:28-37

- Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

## 4. Jesus Raises Lazarus 11:38-44

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- 11:39 four days He was really, really dead
- 11:41-42 Christ's prayer illustrates his close, unique relationship with the Father.
- He used this brief moment to draw those present, and us, into that relationship.
- We will see more of this later in John.

## 4. Jesus Raises Lazarus 11:38-44

- 11:43-44 Lazarus, come out. Some people say that if Jesus didn't call Lazarus by name, the whole cemetery might have risen at Christ's command.
- Now we see why Jesus delayed so long at first.
- We also see what he means in our key verses.
- He is the resurrection and the life.

## 4. Jesus Raises Lazarus 11:38-44

- The raising of Lazarus points forward to the resurrection of Christ.
- The resurrection of Christ points forward to our own resurrection.

## 5. The Plans to Kill Jesus 11:45-57

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- As we have seen so often, some people believe and others do not.
- The same words and actions that lead some to saving faith lead others to oppose the Savior.

## 5. The Plans to Kill Jesus 11:45-57

- 11:50 one man should die for the people
- This is exactly what Christ did, not to save his people from Rome, but to save them from their sins.

## 5. The Plans to Kill Jesus 11:45-57

- 11:52 and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad
- Satan has been dividing people since Cain killed Abel.
- He is still at work today
- In Christ, God is quietly gathering his children from all nations and people groups into one.

## 5. The Plans to Kill Jesus 11:45-57

- 11:55 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand
- This will be the final Passover of Christ's life on earth.
- We are halfway through John, but the rest of it will focus upon the last week or so of Christ's life.

# John 11    What We Just Read

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3. Jesus and Mary    11:28-37
4. Jesus Raises Lazarus    11:38-44
5. The Plans to Kill Jesus    11:45-57

# John 11 Key Points

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1. When our Lord and Master makes us wait, and we must continuously look to him in faith, **that is love**.
2. God is training our character and forming our will into the shape he desires.
3. The **human nature of Jesus** can identify with all of our weaknesses, pain and struggles.

# John 11 Key Points

4. Pay attention to **Christ's prayers**. They give us insight into his relationship with his Father.
5. The **raising of Lazarus** points forward to the resurrection of Christ.
6. The **resurrection of Christ** points forward to our own resurrection.

# John 11    Key Verses

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<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall 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, who is coming into the world.”

# John 11    A Prayer

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- Our Father in heaven,
- You have your own perfect plans for us. You know exactly how best to form us and shape us, how to mold our character and bend our will.
- Help us to trust you as you do your perfect work.
- Cause us to always keep looking toward Jesus as the perfect example of humanity.

# John 11    A Prayer

- He perfectly understands us in all of our trials and our weaknesses because he live through such things himself.
- We receive him also as the perfect Savior, who died for us, rose again, and is the source of eternal life for all of us who believe.

# John 11    A Prayer

- With Martha we can respond to Jesus by saying,
- “Yes, Lord; we believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world.”
- Amen.

# John 11    References

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3. Osborne, Grant R.. *John Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries) (Kindle Location 4517). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.