

Lazarus Dies at Bethany

CHARACTERS: Jesus (lines), John, Mary, Martha, Thomas, Woman, Pharisee 1 & 2, Caiaphas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 11

JOHN: Now a man was sick, Lazarus, from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

MARY: I was the one who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with my hair,

MARTHA: It was our brother Lazarus who was sick so Mary and I sent a message to Jesus:

MARY: Lord, the one You love is sick.

JOHN: When Jesus heard it, He said,

JESUS: This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

JOHN: Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.

MARTHA: (*confused and hurt*) When He heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus stayed two more days in the place where He was.

JESUS: (*to the disciples*) Let's go to Judea again.

THOMAS: Rabbi, just now the Jews tried to stone You, and You're going there again?

JESUS: Aren't there 12 hours in a day? If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. If anyone walks during the night, he does stumble, because the light is not in him.

THOMAS: Huh?

JESUS: Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on My way to wake him up.

THOMAS: Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.

JOHN: (*aside*) Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but we thought He was speaking about natural sleep.

JESUS: Lazarus has died. I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him.

THOMAS: Let's go so that we may die with Him.

JOHN: When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

MARTHA: Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away.

MARY: Many of the Jews had come to Martha and I to comfort us about their brother.

MARTHA: As soon as I heard that Jesus was coming, I went to meet Him.

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MARY: But I remained seated in the house.

MARTHA: Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Yet even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.

JESUS: Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA: I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

JESUS: I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?

MARTHA: Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.

JOHN: Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private,

MARTHA: The Teacher is here and is calling for you.

MARY: As soon as I heard this, I got up quickly and went to Him.

JOHN: Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met Him.

MARTHA: The Jews who were with Mary in the house consoling her saw that Mary got up quickly and went out.

MARY: So they followed me, supposing that I was going to the tomb to cry there.

MARTHA: When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and told Him,

MARY: Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!

MARTHA: When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying,

MARY: He was angry in His spirit and deeply moved.

JESUS: Where have you put him?

MARY: Lord, come and see.

MARTHA: Jesus wept.

JOHN: The Jews said,

WOMAN: See how He loved him

PHARISEE: Couldn't He who opened the blind man's eyes also have kept this man from dying?

JOHN: Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

JESUS: Remove the stone,

MARTHA: Lord, he's already decaying. It's been four days.

JESUS: Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?

MARTHA: They removed the stone.

MARY: Then Jesus raised His eyes and said,

JESUS: Father, I thank You that You heard Me. I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me.

JOHN: Then He shouted with a loud voice,

JESUS: Lazarus, come out!

MARTHA: (*awestruck*) My brother Lazarus came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth.

JESUS: Loose him and let him go.

JOHN: Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what He did believed in Him.

MARTHA: But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

JOHN: So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said,

PHARISEE: What are we going to do since this man does many signs?

PHARISEE 2: If we let Him continue in this way, everyone will believe in Him!

PHARISEE: Then the Romans will come and remove both our place and our nation.

JOHN: Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them,

CAIAPHAS: You know nothing at all! You're not considering that it is to your advantage that one man should die for the people rather than the whole nation perish.

JOHN: He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation,

MARTHA: and not for the nation only, but also to unite the scattered children of God.

PHARISEE 2: From that day on we plotted to kill Jesus.

JOHN: Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews.

JESUS: Let us depart from here to the countryside near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim. JOHN: Jesus stayed there with us, his disciples.

MARTHA: The Jewish Passover was near,

MARY: and many went up to Jerusalem from the country to purify themselves before the Passover.

JOHN: They were looking for Jesus and asking one another as they stood in the temple complex.

WOMAN: What do you think? He won't come to the festival, will He?

PHARISEE: Caiaphas and the Pharisees have given orders that if anyone knows where He is, he should report it so we can arrest Him.

The Anointing at Bethany

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Mary, Martha, Pharisee 1, Judas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 12

MARTHA: Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was,

MARY: (still awed by the miracle) the one Jesus had raised from the dead.

MARTHA: We gave a dinner for Jesus.

MARY: Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.

MARTHA: Then Mary took a pound of fragrant oil—pure and expensive nard—anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped His feet with her hair.

MARY: The house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

JOHN: Then Judas Iscariot, who was about to betray Jesus said,

JUDAS: Why wasn't this fragrant oil sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor?

MARY: (*hurt*) He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief.

JOHN: He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it.

JESUS: Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of My burial. For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.

JOHN: Then a large crowd of the Jews learned He was there.

MARTHA: They came not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus the one He had raised from the dead.

JOHN: Therefore the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus also

PHARISEE: That Lazarus is the reason many of the Jews are deserting us and believing in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Mary, Martha, Pharisee, Philip, Greek man, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 5 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 12

JOHN: The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet Him.

MARTHA: They kept shouting:

ALL: Hosanna! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One—the King of Israel!

JOHN: Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written:

MARTHA: Fear no more, Daughter Zion. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt.

MARY: His disciples did not understand these things at first.

JOHN: However, when Jesus was glorified, then we remembered that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

MARTHA: Meanwhile, the crowd, which had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify.

MARY: This is also why the crowd met Him, because they heard He had done this sign.

PHARISEE: (*frustrated, to one another*) You see? You've accomplished nothing. Look—the world has gone after Him!

PHILIP: Now some Greeks were among those who went up to worship at the festival.

JOHN: So they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him,

GREEK: Sir, we want to see Jesus.

PHILIP: I told Andrew; then Andrew and I went and told Jesus.

JESUS: The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I assure you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself.

ALL: But if it dies, it produces a large crop.

JESUS: The one who loves his life will lose it,

ALL: and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

JESUS: If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be. If anyone serves Me,

ALL: the Father will honor him.

JESUS: Now My soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save Me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour.

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ALL: Father, glorify Your name!

JOHN: Then a voice came from heaven:

VOICE of GOD: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again!

MARTHA: The crowd standing there heard it and said it was thunder.

MARY: Others said that an angel had spoken to Him.

JESUS: This voice came, not for Me, but for you. Now is the judgment of this world.

ALL: Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

JESUS: As for Me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to Myself

JOHN: He said this to signify what kind of death He was about to die.

PHARISEE: We have heard from the scripture that the Messiah will remain forever. So how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?

JESUS: The light will be with you only a little longer.

ALL: Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn't overtake you.

JESUS: The one who walks in darkness doesn't know where he's going.

ALL: While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become sons of light.

JOHN: Jesus said this, then went away and hid from them.

MARY: (sadly) Even though He had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in Him.

MARTHA: But this was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said:

ALL: Lord, who has believed our message? And who has the arm of the Lord been revealed to?

JOHN: This is why they were unable to believe, because Isaiah also said:

ALL: He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so that they would not see with their eyes or understand with their hearts, and be converted,

JESUS: and I would heal them.

JOHN: Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke about Him.

MARY: Nevertheless, many did believe in Him even among the rulers,

MARTHA: but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, so they would not be banned from the synagogue.

ALL: For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

JESUS: The one who believes in Me believes not in Me, but in Him who sent Me.

ALL: And the one who sees Jesus sees Him who sent Jesus

JESUS: I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me

ALL: would not remain in darkness.

JESUS: If anyone hears My words and doesn't keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world

ALL: but to save the world.

JESUS: The one who rejects Me and doesn't accept My sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

ALL: Jesus has not spoken on his own, but the Father Himself who sent Jesus

JESUS: has given Me a command as to what I should say and what I should speak.

ALL: God's command is eternal life.

JESUS: So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.