



## A Greater Plan

By Terry Kountz on June 13, 2024

### TODAY'S READING: John 11

In John 11, we encounter the story of Lazarus, who was sick and eventually died. His sisters, Mary and Martha, were deeply grieving and sent word to Jesus, hoping He would come and heal their brother. When Jesus finally arrived, Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. This delay was not because Jesus didn't care, but because He had a greater plan to reveal His power and bring glory to God.

**Jesus' Interaction with Martha (John 11:20-27):** Martha, the practical and proactive sister, went out to meet Jesus first. She expressed her belief that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus responded with one of His profound declarations, "I am the resurrection and the life." Martha showed remarkable faith, affirming her belief in Jesus as the Messiah, even in the midst of her sorrow. Her encounter with Jesus teaches us about trust and faith in His promises, even when we don't understand His timing.

**Jesus' Interaction with Mary (John 11:28-35):** Mary, known for her deep devotion and emotional expressiveness, stayed back initially but later went to Jesus and fell at His feet, weeping. Her raw emotion moved Jesus deeply, and He wept with her. Jesus' weeping shows his humanity. He has entered into all our experiences and knows how we feel. This shows us Jesus' compassion and His empathy for our pain. We can be real and authentic with Jesus. He knows what's going on and will be there for us.

**Lazarus Raised (John 11:38-44):** Jesus performed one of His greatest miracles. He commanded that the stone be removed from the tomb and called Lazarus out, raising him from the dead. This act was a powerful demonstration of His authority over life and death. It is also a good illustration of what happens to a sinner when he/she trusts in Jesus. Lazarus was dead, and all sinners are dead. Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of God. People who trust in Jesus are "brought to life" because their sin debt is paid.

**PRAYER:** Jesus, thank You for showing Your power over life and death and for Your compassion in the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Help me to have faith like Martha, trusting in Your promises even when I don't understand Your timing. Give me the courage to bring my honest self to You like Mary, knowing that You care deeply for me. May Your power and love transform my life and the lives of those around me.

### TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 9

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