

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE - JOHN 11:1-44

Discuss - use whiteboard

- What are some differences between life in our world and life in the Garden of Eden?
- Which do you think is the biggest problem? What caused these problems?

Introduction - use string with crafts from previous sessions

We've been learning about the I AM sayings of Jesus and we have thinking about how he comes to deal with the problems of life in this world, but sometimes the problems he deals with are not the problems that people think are most important.

- Can you remember a time when the people thought they had one problem, but Jesus showed them they had another? [Bread]
- Can you remember some of our other I AM sayings? [Light, Gate, Shepherd]

Today we come to the fifth I AM saying and we'll be thinking about how Jesus deals with two of the biggest problems of our world: sickness and death.

Part 1 - Jesus and sickness

Our story is very well known and is about a time when one of Jesus' friends was very sick.

- What would you do if one of your friends was very ill and might die? [It's been very hard during lockdown because people haven't been able to be with their sick family members.]
- What does Jesus normally do when someone comes to him and tells him their relative is sick?

Let's read John 11:1-7 and then I have a few questions for you.

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

- What do we learn about Jesus's relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?
- What would they have expected Jesus to do as a result? How do you think it made them feel that Jesus didn't come? Let's see what it says later in the chapter:
v. 20-21 (Martha); v.32 (Mary); v.36-37 (other mourners)
- What does the passage say? Does Jesus delaying mean he doesn't love them?
- Why does he say that he hasn't gone at once to make Lazarus better? Also read v.14-15:

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Jesus is saying it was more loving to put Lazarus through death and for his sisters to be sad because through that experience they, the disciples, and also us would see more of God's glory and know Jesus better. **Jesus loves us most by showing us himself** - sometimes not in the way that we expect or even want, but the most wonderful thing that can happen to us is that we know Jesus and then that we get to know him better.

JESUS SHOWS US HIS LOVE BY SHOWING US HIMSELF - make bead craft

Part 2 - Jesus and death

Drama - let's act out the story and then we'll sit back down and think about how Jesus shows his love to Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

So Jesus goes back to Judea and now we're going to think about how he interacts with all three of his friends when he gets there. I want you to think how Jesus shows love to each of them. The first one is the hardest but it's also the most important because it's where we get our I AM saying, so we'll concentrate most on it...

Jesus and Martha

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- How does Jesus show Martha his love?

Jesus shows Martha his love by showing her himself and strengthening her faith.

- Does Martha believe Jesus could have healed Lazarus when he was sick? [Yes]
- Does Martha believe that Jesus can raise him from the dead? [Maybe...]

Jesus says to Martha, "you believe that there is a great day of resurrection coming at the end of the world, when all believers will be raised from the dead and have new bodies. You are right.

But there is more. That day is only possible because I am stronger than death. My arrival in the world is the beginning of the end for death. You know that day will come with the Messiah. I am the Messiah. It has come."

You see, Jesus is telling Martha that he is exactly what Lazarus needs, but also exactly what she needs. Lazarus is dead, and she is alive. So listen:

The one who believes in me will live, even though they die (verse 25)

That's for Lazarus. And:

whoever lives by believing in me will never die. (verse 26)

That's for Martha and for you.

Jesus will rescue Lazarus's body and soul from the grave, and they will be so happy. But Jesus says, 'what about you Martha. You live, and believe in me, and so you will never die — there will never be one millisecond when you are separated from me, even when you do die one day. And do you know what this means, Martha? It means I love you. And I love your brother. Death will not win. I am revealing my power and my glory to you, because I love you.'

Jesus and Mary

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

- How does Jesus show his love for Mary?

Jesus shows his love by comforting Mary. He understands the pain that they feel and he shares it with them. I think that would have been very precious to Mary even years later. She would remember Jesus coming alongside her that day and remember that he loved her enough to weep with her.

Jesus and Lazarus

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- How does Jesus show his love for Lazarus?

Jesus acts in power. He shows that he is God by raising Lazarus from the dead.

But just as we thought earlier, this only postpones Lazarus's death. He isn't wandering around now, he is buried in a tomb somewhere in Israel or Palestine.

What really matters is that Jesus has shown Lazarus who he is so that Lazarus can trust him for eternal life.

Craft Activity

Making butterflies - a symbol of resurrection!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmPTMNBIz0o>

MARTHA

Narrator: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.

(Goes to get Mary) The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 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. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, he was deeply troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?

Everyone: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Then Jesus wept.

Jesus: (cry and wail.)

Everyone: See how much he loved him!

Narrator: Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Jesus: Roll the stone aside.

Martha: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

Narrator: So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. 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. (Shout) Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth.

Jesus: Unwrap him and let him go!

JESUS

Narrator: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.

(Goes to get Mary) The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 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. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, he was deeply troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?

Everyone: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Then Jesus wept.

Jesus: (cry and wail.)

Everyone: See how much he loved him!

Narrator: Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Jesus: Roll the stone aside.

Martha: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

Narrator: So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. 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. (Shout) Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth.

Jesus: Unwrap him and let him go!

NARRATOR

Narrator: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.

(Goes to get Mary) The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 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. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, he was deeply troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?

Everyone: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Then Jesus wept.

Jesus: (cry and wail.)

Everyone: See how much he loved him!

Narrator: Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Jesus: Roll the stone aside.

Martha: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

Narrator: So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. 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. (Shout) Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth.

Jesus: Unwrap him and let him go!

MARY

Narrator: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: Yes, he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?

Martha: Yes, Lord, I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.

(Goes to get Mary) The Teacher is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 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. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said,

Mary: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Everyone: (cry and wail.)

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, he was deeply troubled.

Jesus: Where have you put him?

Everyone: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Then Jesus wept.

Jesus: (cry and wail.)

Everyone: See how much he loved him!

Narrator: Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

Jesus: Roll the stone aside.

Martha: Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.

Jesus: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?

Narrator: So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. 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. (Shout) Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth.

Jesus: Unwrap him and let him go!