

Lazarus Lives Again

One day when Jesus and his disciples were telling people about God's love, Jesus received a message that his friend Lazarus was very sick. Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. He even stayed at their house in Bethany when he visited Jerusalem in Judea. Mary and Martha knew Jesus could heal their brother because they believed he was the Son of God, but when Jesus got the message, he didn't stop what he was doing to go be with them. Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus wasn't going to die but because of his sickness, people would see how wonderful God is. Then Jesus stayed right where he was, doing what he was doing before he got the message.

Two days later, Jesus told his disciples he was going to go to Judea. His disciples didn't really like this plan because some people in Judea didn't like Jesus at all. In fact, some people in Judea wanted to kill Jesus. His disciples didn't understand why Jesus would even think about going back because it was so dangerous. Jesus told his disciples that their friend Lazarus was dead, and he had to go to him. Jesus wasn't afraid. He knew God's whole plan and he trusted it, so he didn't have to worry about anything else. The disciples didn't know God's whole plan, but they went with Jesus even though they thought it might mean they would die. They loved Jesus too much let him go alone.

It took Jesus two days to get to Bethany but when he arrived, Martha ran to meet him. She was so happy to see Jesus, but she was still very sad about her brother.

Martha said, "If you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

Jesus said, "Your brother will live again."

Then Martha went back to the house to get her sister Mary. There were lots of people in their house with Mary. They were there to help hug her and take care of her while she was sad about Lazarus. When Martha told Mary that Jesus was calling for her, she jumped up and ran to him. All the people in the house followed her. They didn't know she was running to Jesus. They thought she was running to the grave, and she would need them there. When Mary reached Jesus, she fell at his feet to worship him and she said, "If you had been here by brother wouldn't have died."

Then Jesus told Mary and Martha to take him to the place where Lazarus was buried. Lazarus had been put in a tomb that was like a cave with a big rock in front of the opening. Jesus told them to move the big rock. Martha said, "But Lord, Lazarus has been dead for 4 days, by now he will stink." Martha didn't want them to roll away the stone, but Jesus told them to do it. When the stone was moved, Jesus said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days, walked right out of the tomb. He was still wrapped in grave clothes, but he was alive! Jesus raised him from the dead and many of the people who were there that day believed that Jesus was the Son of God. God used Lazarus to bring many people to know Him.