

focus

A 21 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN
PREPARING HEARTS FOR EASTER

DAY 11:

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

John 11:1-44



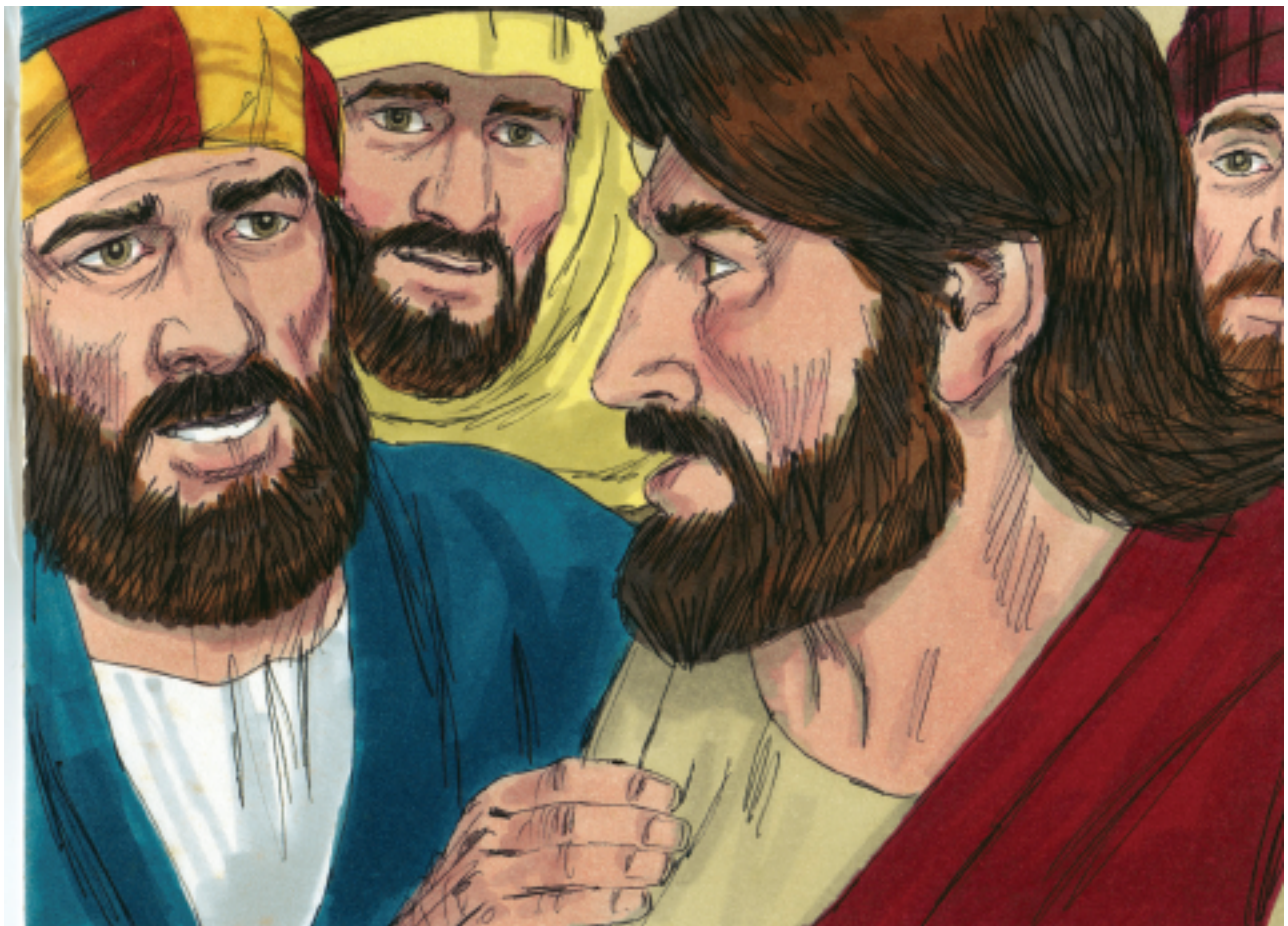
Now a man named Lazarus was sick. Lazarus had two sisters: Mary and Martha. When Lazarus got sick, his sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, your friend Lazarus is sick.”

When he heard this, Jesus said, “Lazarus is sick, but this isn’t the end of his story. No, God wants to do something amazing with Lazarus’s sickness.” Jesus loved Lazarus and Mary and Martha. So after a few days, he and his disciples traveled to see Lazarus and his sisters.

Jesus told his disciples, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” But his disciples replied, “But Lord, sleeping is good! If he sleeps, he will get better.”

But Jesus wasn't talking about normal sleep, so he told them, “Lazarus has died, but just watch what God will do.”

The disciples were so sad that their friend had died. They didn't understand what Jesus meant.





When Jesus arrived at the town where Lazarus lived, he found out that he had been buried in the tomb for four days. There was a crowd of people around to comfort Martha and Mary. Everyone was sad Lazarus had died.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now, God can do a miracle.”

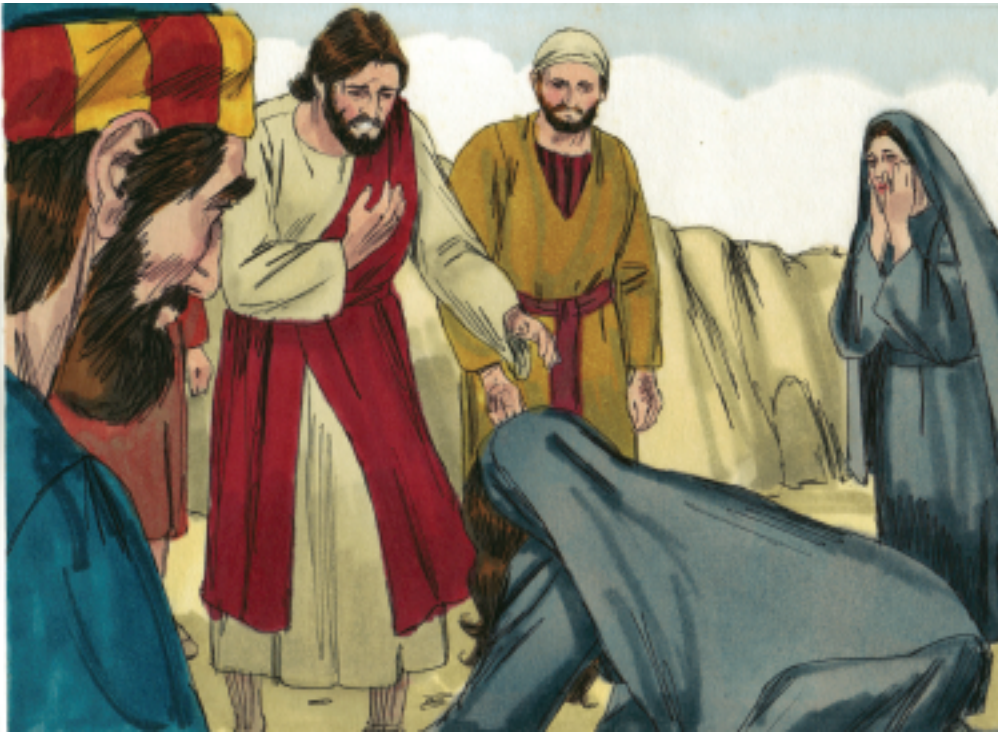
Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I believe you, Jesus.”

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

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





After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “Jesus is here,” she said, “and he wants to see you.”

When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. When the other people saw Mary leave the house, they followed her, thinking she might be going to see Lazarus’s tomb.

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.”

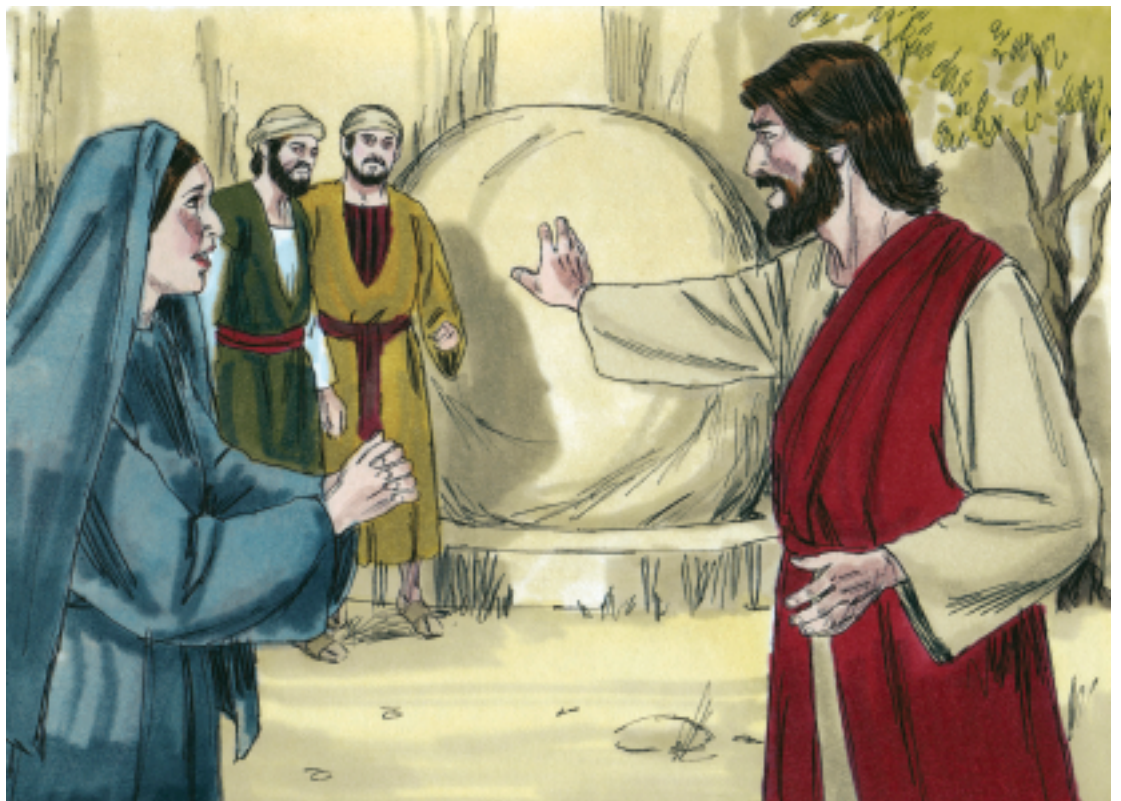
When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other people around her also weeping, he was filled with compassion and sadness. “Where is he buried?” he asked them.

“Come and see, Lord,” The replied. As they walked along, Jesus cried with them. The people saw Jesus crying and said, “Look at that! Jesus loved Lazarus so much!”

But other people said, “If he loved Lazarus so much, why did he let him die? Couldn’t he have healed this man, just like he healed others?”

When Jesus saw the tomb where Lazarus was buried, he began to cry more. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “Lazarus’s body has been dead for four days. His body is rotting and will smell bad.”

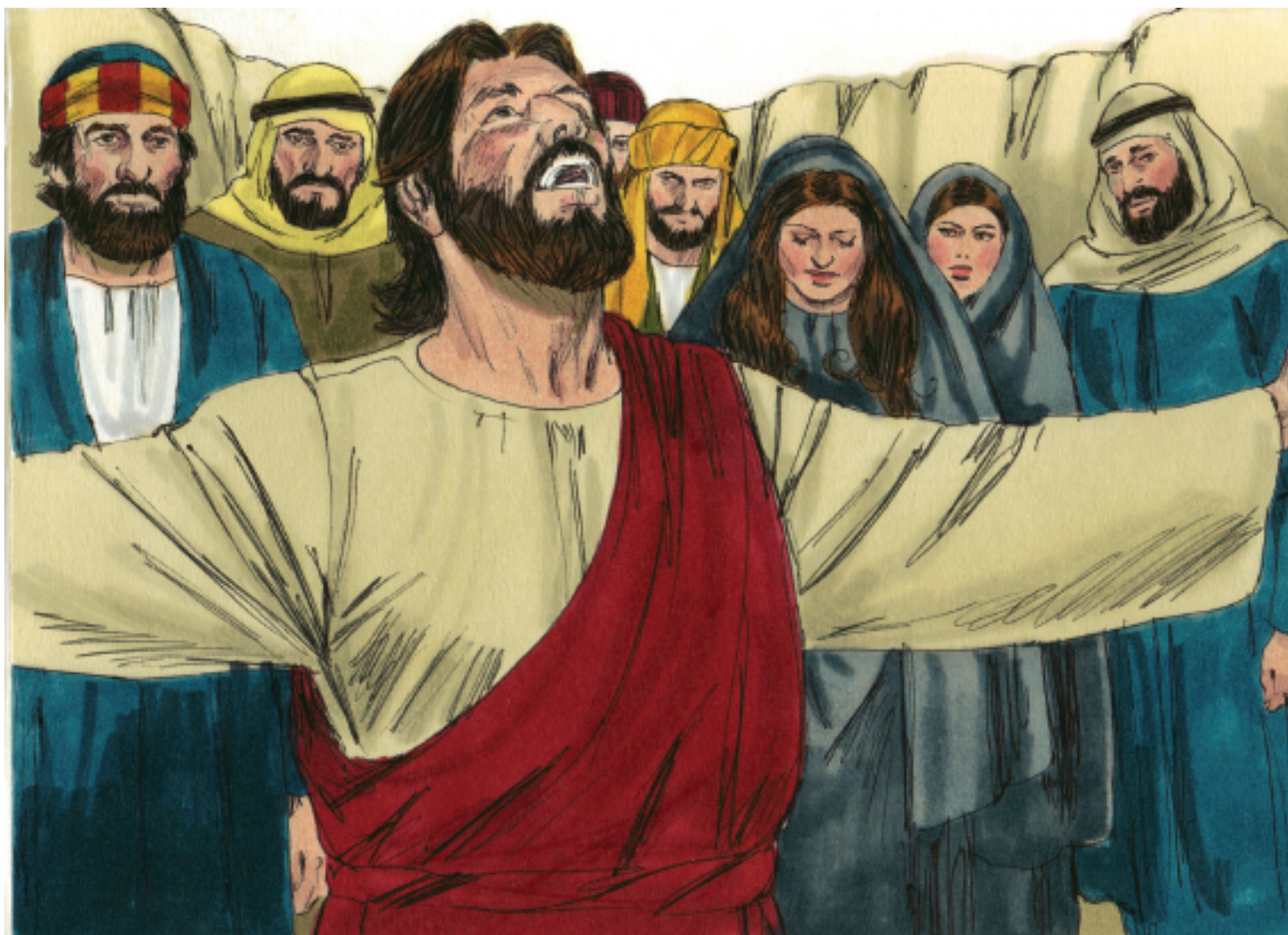




Then Jesus said, “Martha, didn’t I tell you? If you believe, you will see what God will do.”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father in heaven, I thank you that you always hear me when I pray. I am saying this out loud so that the others here will know that it is You who have sent me to be Savior of the world.”

After he said this, Jesus called in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”





Then the dead man came out, his hands and feet still wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

The people who saw Lazarus come back to life all believed that Jesus God’s son, and the Savior of the world. They told everyone around them, and many more people believed Jesus was their Savior.

Lazarus was powerless to raise himself back to life, but Jesus is powerful and was able to make Lazarus’s heart begin to beat again. *Do you think Jesus has the power to bring our spirits back to life?*