

## **BIBLE READING DAY 31, TUESDAY: MARCH 29**

### **I AM the Resurrection and the Life**

John 11:1–54

*Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) His sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, your dear friend is sick."*

*When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, he said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but in the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Therefore, though he loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus remained where he was for two more days. Then, after two days, he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again."*

*"Rabbi," said the disciples, "only a little while ago the Jews were wanting to stone you; are you going back there again?"*

*"Are there not twelve hours in the day?" replied Jesus. "If a man walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he can see by the daylight. But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles, because he has no light. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him."*

*"Lord, if he has fallen asleep," said the disciples, "he is going to get well."*

*Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought he meant taking rest in sleep. So Jesus plainly said, "Lazarus is dead. For your sakes, I am glad I was not there, that you may learn to believe. But let us go to him."*

*Then Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us go, too, that we may die with him."*

*When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs out, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained in the house.*

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

*"Your brother will rise again," said Jesus.*

*"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day," replied Martha.*

*"I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus. "He who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

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

*Then Martha went and called her sister privately, saying, "The Master has come, and is calling for you." When Mary heard this, she rose at once and went to Jesus, who had not yet come to the village but was still where Martha met him. The Jews who were consoling Mary, when they saw that she got up hurriedly and went out, followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.*

*When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and saw the Jews weeping who followed her, he was distressed and deeply touched.*

*"Where have you laid him?" he asked.*

*"Come and see, Lord," they replied.*

*Jesus quietly wept.*

*"See how he loved him!" said the Jews.*

*But some said, “This man who opened the eyes of the blind—wasn’t he able to keep this man from dying?”*

*Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against the opening. “Take away the stone,” said Jesus.*

*“Lord,” protested Martha, “by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”*

*“Did I not tell you that if you believed,” said Jesus, “you would see the glory of God?”*

*Then they took away the stone, and Jesus lifted his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the people standing by, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”*

*And he who had been dead came out, bound hand and foot with winding cloths, and with a napkin bound about his face. “Untie him, and let him go,” said Jesus.*

*Then many of the Jews who had come with Mary, when they saw what Jesus did, believed in him. But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called the Council together and said, “What are we to do? For this man is performing many miracles. If we let him go on doing these things, all the people will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and destroy both our temple and our nation.”*

*But one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said, “You know nothing at all, nor do you understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, rather than that the whole nation perish.” (Now he did not say this of his own accord, but being High Priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also that he might gather all the children of God scattered abroad.)*

*So, from that day on, they plotted how they might kill him. Jesus therefore no longer walked openly in Judea, but retired to the countryside near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there remained with his disciples.*

### **An Ambitious Request, Matthew 20:20–28; Mark 10:35-45**

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons and knelt before him to ask a favor and her sons came with her.*

*“What do you wish?” asked Jesus.*

*“Please say that these my two sons may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom,” she replied.*

*But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?”*

*“We can,” they replied.*

*“You will indeed drink my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I will be baptized,” said Jesus, “but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant; it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”*

*When the ten heard about this, they were indignant toward the brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men wield authority over them. It is not to be that way among you. Whoever would become great among you must be your servant, and whoever would have first place among you must be the slave of all, for even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

#### **Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry**

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	SPRING
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## DEVOTIONAL DAY 31 (TUESDAY MARCH 29)

So, just why are You here?

*Based on John 11:1-54, Mark 10:35-45, Matthew 20:20-28*

If you know our family, you know we are big Disney peeps! One of our favorite Disney movies is *Mary Poppins*, the story of a magical nanny who flies in on a cloud armed only with an umbrella and a bottomless carpet bag on a mission to do what no other nanny could do before her: fix those pesky kids!

That's what it's about, isn't it? She comes to put the kids on the straight and narrow! Well, if you know the movie, then you know that is not why she is there. Oh, sure, the kids need some pruning. They have a penchant for running away from home and their room is a wreck, but Mary is not there to fix the kids – she's there to fix the dad! It's a case of misunderstood purpose by the audience.

In today's story, one of the more iconic miracles in the Gospel accounts, Jesus raises His friend Lazarus from the dead! But simply raising Lazarus from the dead and relieving the family's grief was not Jesus's mission.

What?! How could that NOT be His mission? Didn't Jesus come to give us peace, to heal our sorrows, to comfort our wounds? That's Who Jesus is to me – I need that to be Jesus!

Well, ok, but let's look a little bit closer at how He handles this situation.

When the messenger found Jesus and His disciples in John 11, they had retreated from Judea to a location east of the Jordan River. This placed Jesus about a day's walk from Bethany. Accounting for travel along with the fact that Jesus lingered for two days before leaving, it is likely that Lazarus was dead shortly after the messenger left Bethany in the first place. In any case, Jesus's omniscience knew Lazarus's fate when it happened and testified to it in verse 11.

Now, if Jesus's primary mission on this day was chaplaincy to a grieving family and He already knew that Lazarus was deceased, why wait for two days before leaving?

Jesus's goal was to raise Lazarus from the dead to the witness of all who were assembled, but His mission was that you would believe (verses 15, 27, 40). A by-product of the miracle was the temporary relief of the friends and family that mourned at the grave, but Jesus's purpose was to bring glory to God. It's another case of mistaken purpose by the audience.

Hear me say this clearly: Jesus came for so many secondary reasons. Yes, He had great compassion on people, He healed many, and He loves you individually, but He only had one primary mission and it was to bring all people to God!

Friends, we are so very close to the cross – its shadow looms over Jesus's current location just east of Jerusalem – and late next week, Jesus will kneel in the garden overcome by an anxiety no one could ever measure. In that moment, Jesus will understand this difficult lesson, Himself, as He prays in earnest for God's glory above His own will. It's going to get so much worse before it gets better, but God's glory is the mission and we join Him in it!

**Lord, may I see You in my life, in my blessings, and if necessary, even in my suffering. May my life bring glory to You and may my purpose be to join You in death as well as in victory.**

--By Rief Kessler

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"A fish would never be happy living on land, because it was made for water. An eagle could never feel satisfied if it wasn't allowed to fly. You will never feel completely satisfied on earth, because you were made for more."

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*Charles H. Spurgeon*

**WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:**

**WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?**

**PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?**

**ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION** (How God Can Supply Needs)

**A**

**C**

**T**

**S**