

**The Resurrection of Lazarus****TEXT: John 11:1-54****STORY ELEMENTS:****Setting:** circa 31 AD**Main Characters:** God, Jesus, the disciples, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus**Plot:** Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead to show that he is the source of true life.**Key word(s):** “the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life”**Climax:** *John 11:35 Jesus Wept***The Request**

1. (vv 1-4) As Jesus ministered away from Jerusalem (because of the threat of the Jewish leadership) his friend Lazarus became gravely ill. Messengers were dispatched to find Jesus and tell him of his friend's serious condition (and presumably to fetch him back to Bethany to heal Lazarus). Jesus, who knows all things, said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” (v 4)
2. (vv 5-7) John writes that Jesus delayed his return to Bethany out of \_\_\_\_\_ for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. This sounds odd since we assume Jesus would do all he could to save his loved ones from pain and harm. Instead, he delays. There are a couple of reasons for this:
  - (a) Probably, Lazarus was already \_\_\_\_\_ by the time the messengers found Jesus. The Savior would have known this.
  - (b) As Jesus indicated in verse 4, this sickness was for the glorification of the Son of God – an opportunity to build \_\_\_\_\_ in others as he displayed his power over death.

==> If God is who he says he is, then knowing him is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in this life and beyond; therefore, the most loving thing God could do is to cause us to know him better – even if that means allowing great suffering in this life.

3. (vv 8-10) The disciples were not a little concerned that Jesus was determined to return to Judea in the face violent opposition, but Jesus responded with the proverb, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.” In other words, as long as we are doing God's \_\_\_\_\_, we can be assured that we will come to no harm (“stumbling”).

**The Resurrection**

4. (vv 17-23) When Jesus approached Bethany, he heard that Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha went out to greet the Savior, and he said to her, “Thy brother will \_\_\_\_\_ again.”

5. (vv 24-27) Martha assumed Jesus was merely speaking words of comfort; her words in verse 22 were intended to show that she still had \_\_\_\_\_ faith in the Savior; however, she did not expect that Lazarus would rise *that very day*.
6. (vv 28-35) Jesus sent for Mary, who was grieving in the house, and headed for Lazarus' tomb. There, as Jesus beheld the sight of a weeping Mary, Martha, and the mourners he was filled with emotion and likewise wept. If Jesus knew he would raise Lazarus from the dead, why would he weep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. (vv 38-44) At the tomb, asked for the stone to be rolled away. Martha was hesitant considering how long her brother had been dead. But Jesus was not intending to weep over a decomposing body. Instead, Jesus prayed, confessing \_\_\_\_\_ faith that the Father heard and answered his prayers. The Jesus announced, "Lazarus, come forth!" The dead man came out, and Jesus commanded that he be loosed from his wrappings.

### The Reaction

8. (vv 45-52) Many of the onlookers believed at that moment, but some went to the chief priests and Pharisees with the news. Now, more than ever, Jesus' enemies were intent on killing him. Caiaphas the high priest unwittingly \_\_\_\_\_ when he said, "one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."

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**ANSWER KEY:**

key word(s): "resurrection"

1. glory
2. love; a) dead; b) faith

==> pleasure

3. will
4. rise
5. unwavering
6. 6. Jesus wept because the scene before him epitomized humanity's need for the Savior – death and despair
7. pure
8. prophesied