

Jesus! The Light of the World!

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Read John 11:1-46. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Martha greets Him with words that hold two emotions at once: “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You” (11:21-22). Grief and faith stand side by side. Martha does not hide her pain, nor does she abandon her trust. Scripture reminds us that faithful hearts are not single-emotion hearts. Much of life requires us to hold more than one emotion together. Even Jesus did this. In Matthew’s Gospel, He pronounces fierce woes upon the Pharisees and immediately afterward weeps over Jerusalem, longing to gather her children under His wings. Jesus was not immune to human emotion, and neither are we called to suppress ours. Instead, we are invited to bring the fullness of our emotions honestly before the Father, trusting Him to meet us with truth, wisdom, and grace.

As the Lazarus scene continues to unfold, John tells us that Jesus is “deeply moved in spirit” (11:33,38). The Greek is more striking than most English translations. It’s used outside the Bible for the snorting of an angry horse, and conveys outrage, indignation, even righteous fury. Jesus is not merely saddened; He is enraged. But at what? The tears of Mary and the crowd expose the full weight of a broken world. Sin, sickness, unbelief, and ultimately death itself stand before Him. Jesus’ indignation reveals that this is not how things were meant to be. And it reminds us why He came: to confront death head-on and to destroy its power. Jesus advances toward the tomb not as a champion prepared for conflict. John Calvin captures this beautifully: “The raising of Lazarus thus becomes, not an isolated marvel, but a decisive instance and open symbol of Jesus’ conquest of death and hell. Jesus smites on our behalf. He not only feels for and with us in our oppression, but has wrought our redemption.”

Jesus has truly validated his claim to be “the Resurrection and the Life.” In fact, for those that have been immersed into Christ, eternal life has already begun! (*Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 2:5-6*). Prayerfully consider these questions: Where in your life are grief and faith existing side by side right now? How does it comfort you to know that Jesus understands your pain? How might living in the truth of resurrection reshape the way you think, speak, and act today?

Weekly Memory Verse:

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies,”

John 11:25

Weekly Affirmation:

**JESUS KNOWS WHAT
I’M GOING THROUGH!**

DECEMBER 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Gospel of John
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on John (*available on the website*).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Pray for someone face to face, pray for them on a phone call, or write out your prayer to give them in a note or text.