

# I Am the Resurrection

By Mary Kane

It was the Wednesday before Easter and I was on the way down to Chapel with my class. As I walked down the hallway with my class, we passed our fourth grade teacher whom I had scheduled to speak at chapel that day. In passing I made some type of comment like "We'll see you in a few minutes to hear your message!" My casual comment was returned by a look of panic from our "speaker." "I'm supposed to speak today?" he said anxiously, while pulling out a tattered day-planner from his pocket. I stayed calm while he fumbled with the pages and eventually found a very small note penned in the corner of a very full appointment book, indicating that he was to speak that day. He began to profusely apologize as I told him not to worry as God must have an important "Plan B" for that particular chapel. I began praying as we continued walking down the hallway for God to show me what to do. My class filed into the chapel and found seats along with dozens of others students. While I was praying I recalled a piece of advice I had heard another Christian speaker state in a video I; "Teach whatever God has been teaching you." What had God been teaching me lately? My mind went to all the information that I had learned about Lazarus while researching to write this Bible study. In that moment God showed me the message for chapel that Wednesday before Easter—Lazarus! How perfect! I asked our third grade teacher if she could help me to make the message applicable to our lower elementary students while I would handle the upper elementary students. She quickly assured me that she would help and dashed back to her classroom and returned with a purple bird puppet and a puppet stage. She asked me to join her on stage and follow her lead in a completely impromptu puppet show! God showed up and led us through that service while He presented His Gospel message using a puppet named Beatrice and a set of Resurrection Easter Eggs. After the younger students filed out and I was preparing to speak to the older students, God prompted me in my heart to tell my students that the story of Lazarus is the story of everyone of us...Jesus is calling each of us by name, to come out of the grave and to be born again to a new life.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart and read John 11:1-44.

**Please list the names of the family members involved in this wonderful passage of scripture.**

**What facts do we learn about Lazarus in verse 3?**

We learn that Jesus loved Lazarus and that he was sick. Notice, as Matthew Henry points out in his commentary, that the wording of the sisters' message, "Lord, the one *You* love is sick" rather than "Lord, the one *we* love is sick" (emphasis mine). The original word used for *love* in this verse is *phileo* which means *brotherly love* or *affection* (please keep this fact in mind).

Please read verse 4 again, very carefully.

**The purpose of Lazarus sickness as not for death, but for...**

Have you ever considered that even our sicknesses can be used for the glory of God?

**List as many ways that you can think as to how our illnesses can be used to glorify God.**

**Now, please write verse 5 in the space provided.**

**Please go back and circle the verb in the verse you just wrote.**

This time a different Greek word for *love* is used in this verse—*agapeo*. Please recall the word used previously for the word *love*. The writer

almost seems intent on pointing out that Jesus not only *phileos* Lazarus, but that He *agapeos* Lazarus, Martha and her sister and Mary. *Agapeo* is a type of love that only comes from God. This type of love always has the best interest of the recipient in mind. Every action on part of the giver of *agapeo* is for the benefit of the one who is receiving. Later in this study, I will ask you to consider how Lazarus, Mary and Martha benefitted from this very harrowing experience.

Scan verses 6-16 again.

**Who accompanied Jesus to Bethany?**

**What other town was very close to Bethany?**

**What did His disciples fear would happen to Jesus if He went into Judea again?**

His disciples did not need to worry about Jesus being stoned. Death by stoning was not part of the Fathers plan for the redemption of His people.

**Jesus was destined to die on a \_\_\_\_\_.**

A little bit later we will return to consider a few of these verses in greater detail. Now please turn your attention to verse 20.

**What did Martha do when she heard that Jesus was near by?**

**But where was Mary?**

Instead of sitting at the feet of her Savior, Mary was sitting in the house.

Poor Martha; her reputation has always suffered a little for that incident in Luke 10. She was too busy in the kitchen to sit and learn from the Master as Mary did. Where as Martha's personality quirks did her a disservice in Luke 10, they served her well in John 11—they lead her to Jesus. I think there was more to Martha than meets the eye. If we read carefully we shall see that she was a woman of great faith and that she must have overheard a little theology while working in the kitchen.

**Please record what Martha said to Jesus in verses 21-22.**

**Now please record what Mary said to Jesus in verse 32.**

**Contrast Mary's statement with Martha's. What is missing from Mary's statement to Jesus?**

Please finish the following statement:

**From 21-22, we know that Martha believed Jesus could....**

Martha believed that Jesus:

1. Could heal people from sicknesses.
2. Could prevent people from dying.
3. Had a very special relationship with God
4. Could raise people from the dead!

In verse 23, Jesus assures Martha that Lazarus would rise again and Martha affirms that she believes that Lazarus will rise again in the resurrection.

**How does Jesus answer Martha in verse 25?**

**And what does Jesus miraculously do in verse 43 and 44?**

Hallelujah! Death where is thy victory? Death where is thy sting!

**Do you have a situation in your life which needs resurrecting?**

Now we need to tie a few things together. Let's go back in our text to consider a verse that raises a question that begs to be answered.

**What does Jesus clearly state in verse 14?**

**In verse 15, why does Jesus say that He was glad?**

After reading this verse again I began to wonder "Jesus was glad He wasn't there so His disciples would *believe... believe what?*" What vitally important lesson was Jesus trying to teach His disciples at that moment in time? Please look ahead to chapter 12 and take note of the life-changing event that was only days away.

**What was about to happen?**

Jesus was just days away from going to the cross. What better time was there to reveal Himself to His disciples as the Resurrection and the Life? The last time Jesus raised someone from the dead, he only allowed Peter, James and John to accompany Him (Mark 5:37). This time Jesus took the Twelve, Judas included. In revealing Himself as The Resurrection and the Life, Jesus delivered a great truth that would greatly encourage the disciples during the seemingly dark days immediately following His crucifixion. Hopefully His disciples would remember that Jesus was the Resurrection and that He had infinite power over death.

Will we do the same? Will we draw upon the truths that God has taught us and remember that we always have hope even when it looks as if all is lost? Will we continue to believe that He is the Resurrection when our marriage is about to die or our life long dream seems destined to dissolve or our job is terminated? As we learned earlier in this lesson, God *agapeos* us and works all things for our good.

**How was the death and resurrection of Lazarus used for the good of each of the following people:**

**Martha:**

**Mary:**

**Lazarus:**

**The Disciples:**

**The Jews:**

**Finally, please write 1 Peter 1:3 in the space provided:**

Like Lazarus, Jesus is calling us to come forth and live a new life in Him. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

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