

Readers Theater John 11

Cast

Narrator	Jesus	Disciples
Thomas	Martha	Mary

Narrator: Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said,

Jesus: "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Narrator: Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. After this he said to the disciples,

Jesus: "Let us go to Judea again."

Disciples: "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus: "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

Disciples: "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

Jesus: "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Narrator: Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

Thomas: "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Narrator: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus: "Your brother will rise again."

Martha: "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Narrator: When she had said this, she went back and called privately to her sister Mary:

Martha: "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

Narrator: When she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet.

Mary: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Narrator: When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

Jesus: "Where have you laid him?"

Mary and Martha: "Lord, come and see."

Narrator: Jesus began to weep. Some of the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But others said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus: "Take away the stone."

Martha: "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

Jesus: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Narrator: So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and prayed.

Jesus: "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me. . . . Lazarus, come out!"

Narrator: The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

Jesus: "Unbind him, and let him go."