

*Biblical Drama based on John 11:17-44**Character Parts: Narrators 1-13, Jesus, Friend, Martha, Mary, Lazarus (non-speaking)*

Narrator 1: Jesus' friend Lazarus had become very sick. So his sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus, asking him to come. Jesus reassured his disciples.

Jesus: This illness will not end in death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

Narrator 2: The town of Bethany was near Jerusalem, so many people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

Friend: We're very sorry about what happened to your brother.

Narrator 3: When Jesus finally arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had died and was already buried. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha: *(to Jesus)* 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 who is coming into the world.

Narrator 4: When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and talked to her privately.

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

Mary: I will go to him.

Narrator 5: Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were with Mary in the house, consoling her, saw her get up quickly and go out. So they got up and followed her.

Friend: Do you think she is going to the tomb to weep there?

Narrator 6: 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 7: When Jesus saw her weeping, and the friends who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved.

Jesus: Where have you laid your brother?

Mary: Lord, come and see.

Narrator 8: Jesus began to weep with Mary.

Friend: See how he loved him! Could not this great man who opened the eyes of the blind have kept Lazarus from dying?

Narrator 9: Jesus was still very upset when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus: Take away the stone.

Martha: Lord, are you sure you should do that? There is already a bad smell, 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 10: So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and prayed.

Jesus: Father, I thank you for having heard me. I know 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.

Narrator 11: When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice:

Jesus: Lazarus, come out!

(Lazarus enters)

Narrator 12: 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.

Narrator 13: Many who had come with Mary and saw what Jesus did started to believe in him.