

March 31, 2023

## Do You Believe This?

[John 11:1-45](#)

*Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?” “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”*

*John 11:23, 25-26 New Living Translation*

What a week Martha had! Her brother Lazarus became ill, severely ill. The family felt that Lazarus might not survive this illness, so they sent a message to Jesus telling him that his “dear friend was very sick.”

When Jesus first got the message, he didn’t seem to think that the situation was urgent. However, after a few days, Jesus told the disciples plainly that Lazarus was dead and now was the time to go see him.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the grave for four days.

Martha ran down the road to meet Jesus. She may have been thinking that Jesus was just too far away to get to them in time or maybe the message they sent never reached Jesus.

She told Jesus, maybe with a bit of criticism or disappointment in her voice, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Then she added with a glimmer of hope, “But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

I love the next words of Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never ever die.” Then it became more personal. **Jesus said, “Do you believe this, Martha?”**

This is precisely the question Jesus asks each of us today: “Do you believe this, \_\_\_?” (with your name inserted). Everything hinges on our answer.

It is here in this present moment that Jesus meets us and assures us that the best is yet to come. Do you believe this?

**Prayer:** Our Gracious and Merciful Father, this Lenten season we answer with Martha, “Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.” Amen.

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