



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

RICHARD BROWN

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JOHN 11:25

- This is the 5th “I am” statement of Jesus found in John’s gospel
- Emphatic “*I am*”, meaning: “*I, I am the resurrection and the life...; apart from me there is no resurrection or life.*”



JOHN 11:1-44 (NIV)

- Close your eyes and immerse yourself in the story

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

THREE EMOTIONAL CRIES OF MARTHA

- Why didn't you stop this from happening?
- I know you can... I'm just struggling to believe you will...
- It's too late; it's gone too far; this can't be put right now...



WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

- *²¹ “If you had been here my brother would not have died”.*
- The need to ask why
 - “God, why did you let this happen? Why didn’t you answer my prayers? Why didn’t you heal my husband, my wife, my child...? Why is my marriage falling apart? Why is this happening to me?”



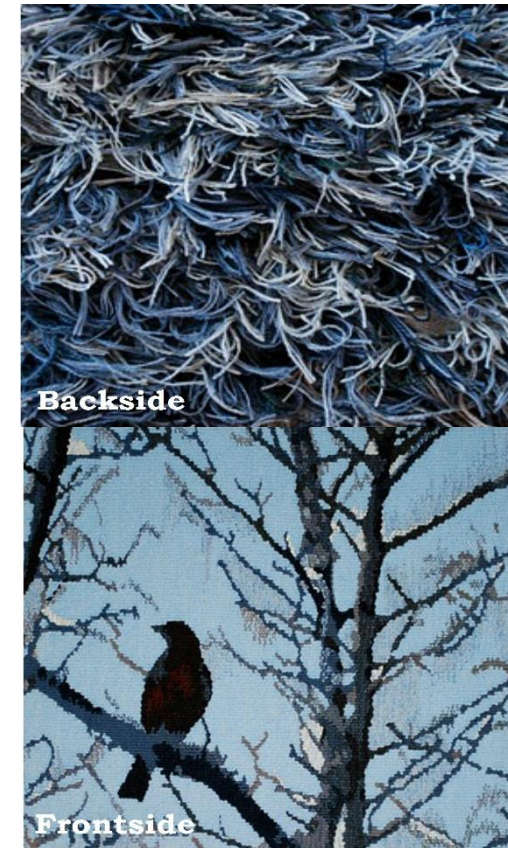
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

- Lazarus was probably already dead when messengers reached Jesus.
- Jesus says: *“Death will not have the final word today”*
- Jesus is not phased by the news. There is a bigger picture



WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

- Isaiah 55:8-9 - ⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”



WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

- It's OK to pour your heart out to God in this way
 - Remember God is in control
 - There is a God purpose
 - God is good, all the time



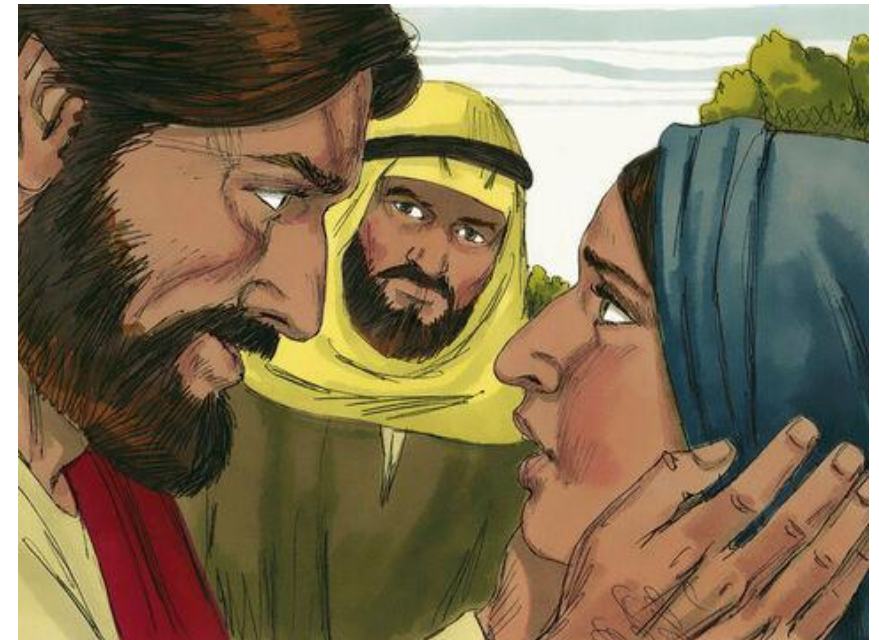
I KNOW YOU CAN... I'M JUST STRUGGLING TO BELIEVE YOU WILL...

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”



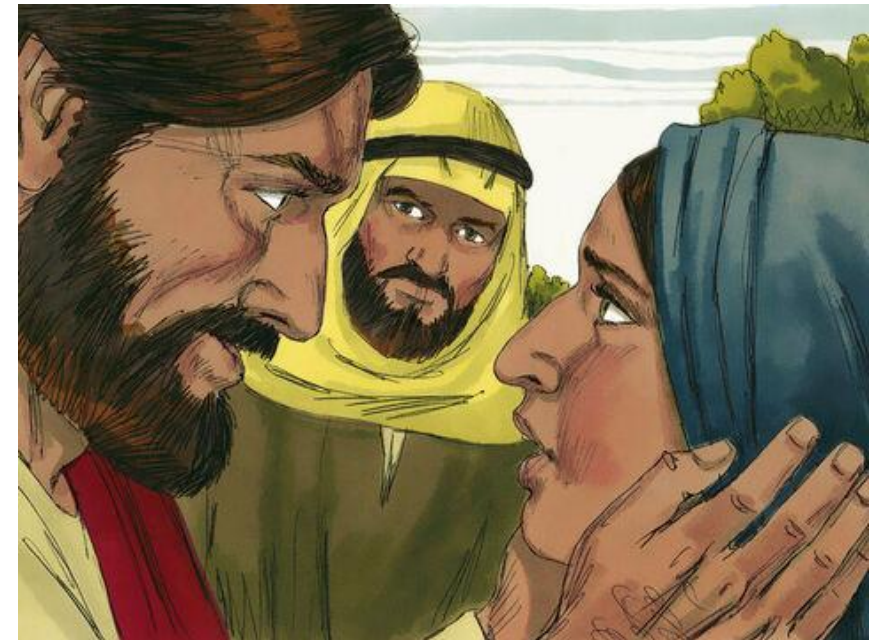
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²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”



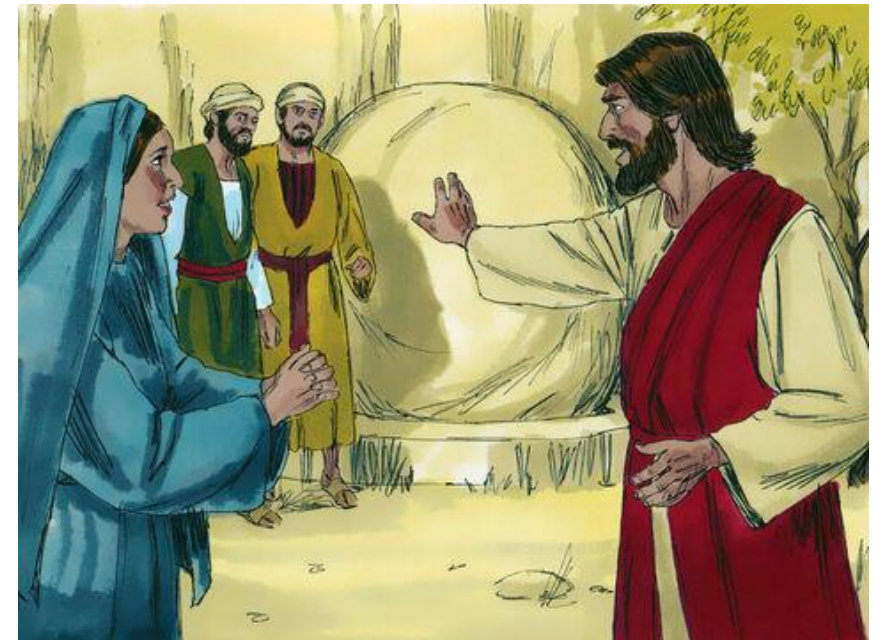
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- Mark 9:24 *“I believe, help me overcome my unbelief”*
- Martha believed that Jesus could do anything, but to believe Lazarus would rise today in the here and now... fear and uncertainty knocks at the door.



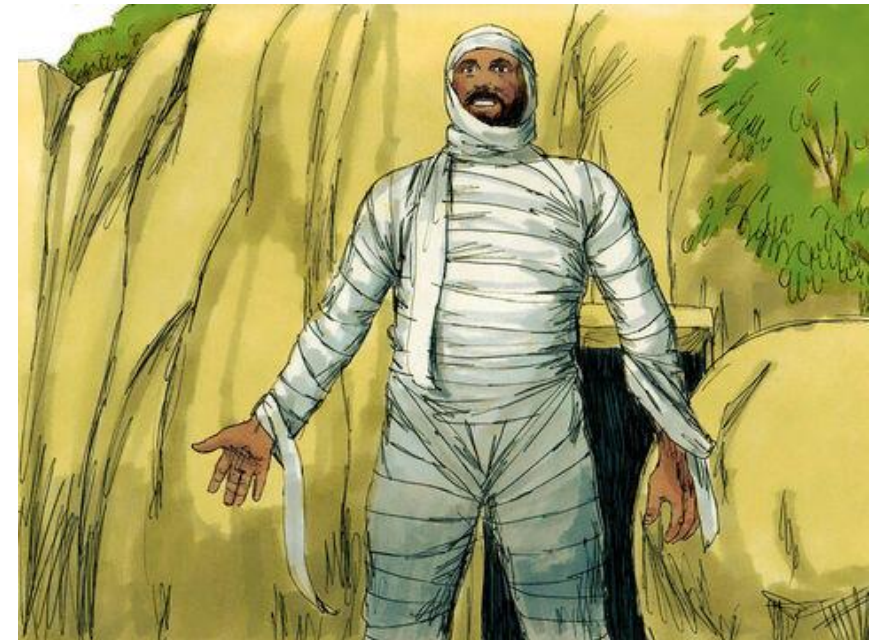
IT'S TOO LATE; IT'S GONE TOO FAR; THIS CAN'T BE PUT RIGHT NOW...

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.” ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”



IT'S TOO LATE; IT'S GONE TOO FAR; THIS CAN'T BE PUT RIGHT NOW...

- Facing the impossible:
 - *“It’s too late, it’s gone too far, there’s no way back, it’s hopeless, it’s lost forever, no chance of putting it right, can’t be repaired, it’s a right-off, time to give up...”*
- Jesus says:
 - *“I can restore your marriage, I can restore your health, I can restore your finances, I can restore your job, I can restore you... but first, I need you to believe in me.”*



IT'S TOO LATE; IT'S GONE TOO FAR; THIS CAN'T BE PUT RIGHT NOW...

- The ultimate demonstration of Jesus' power of death was Calvary. He died, he arose and walked out of the cave alive.
- Jesus said, "*I, I am the resurrection and the life*". There is no other way.



CLOSING

- John 11:35 – *Jesus wept*
- God feels our pain, and feels the anger towards the enemy that causes the pain.
- One day all things will be made new, until then let us believe in, and live in, the one who is the resurrection and the life.

