

# Weekly Reflection

In John 11, the apostle describes the most incredible sign Jesus performed during his ministry before going to the cross – the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. The whole chapter is filled with not only the wonder of the power Jesus displays, but also with people like Martha and Mary trying to understand what it is to have faith in Jesus in the midst of such a difficult situation. This particular time reading through this story, I was compelled by the opening verses of the chapter. First, Mary and Martha send word to Jesus about their brother with the simplest of messages. “Lord, the one you love is sick.” They don’t ask Jesus to do anything in particular, they don’t presume to know what he would do, they simply bring this need before him. There is something in this I can learn from as I approach God in prayer. Am I first and foremost honestly placing my needs in trust before God? Or am I coming with presumptions on what is the best way forward with this need and asking God to heed to my will?

After Jesus predicts that Lazarus’ illness will not terminate in death, John tells us that Jesus loves this family. Maybe he adds this because what happens next is hard for us to understand. Hearing about Lazarus, Jesus decides to stay where he is for two more days. Why doesn’t he go right away?!? This is a common experience for the follower of Jesus. We often don’t understand the situations he leads us to or the timing of his leading or answers to us. This is an ongoing wrestling for a disciple of Jesus. As we go through these things, can we be assured of the truths which John presents? Jesus loves us deeply. His love is so great he would give up his life and accept the justice of God for our sin upon himself. Following Jesus isn’t the easiest of journeys, but at the beginning, middle, and end, we can be assured we set out on this path with the one who loves us more deeply than any other.

## Scripture

**Sunday:** [Matt. 28:5-6](#)

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**Monday:**

[John 11:1-44](#)

*Does God always do work when we want him to?*

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**Tuesday:**

[John 11:45-57](#)

*When God works in ways that we were not expecting, do we believe in him, or look elsewhere for answers?*

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**Wednesday:**

[John 12:1-11](#)

*What are you willing to give up for Jesus? Your prized possessions?*

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**Thursday:**

[John 12:12-36](#)

*Are you willing to give your life for God? What about your reputation?*

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**Friday:**

[John 12:37-50](#)

*Do you love human praise more than praise from God?*

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**Saturday:**

[Psalm 118:19-29](#)

## Weekly Activity

In John 12, some Greeks come and ask to see Jesus.  
Who can you show Jesus to this week?  
How are you seeing Jesus?



The angel said to the women,  
“Do not be afraid,  
for I know that  
you are looking for Jesus,  
who was crucified.

He is not here;

**he has risen,**

just as he said. Come and  
see the place where he lay.

Matthew 28:5-6



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