



**SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021**  
**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
Starts but not ends with Sunday  
Brian Bales – Lead Pastor

April 11  
Sermon and  
Study Guide



*Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So, when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

Matthew 11:28-30

**This study guide is intended for the life application of the Sunday Sermon**

**Review From Last Week**

1. Jesus never puts up a velvet rope to keep people out, his invitation is for everyone.
2. Velvet ropes are real, but not in Heaven. Were you more aware of velvet ropes this week?
3. Our job is to invite others to meet Jesus because He is visible in us.

**Lessons to Explore**

1. Dead is not always dead.
2. When our faith is challenged.
3. Who is Jesus?
4. Jesus has authority over death and over life and even resurrection.
5. When we encounter the I AM.
6. What we can learn from Martha.

**CONTEXT**

Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus is very ill, presumably gravely ill and could possibly die. Martha and Mary are close friends of Jesus and send word to him about their brother, but Jesus waits before traveling to Bethany. And this creates confusion because verse 5 tells us that Jesus loved this family, yet his actions seem unloving at worst and negligent at best. We pick up the story in **verse 17**.

Lazarus had been in the tomb 4 days. Jesus waited four days because He knew the Jewish superstition of that day that said a soul stayed near the grave for three days, hoping to return to the body. Therefore, it was accepted that after four days there was absolutely no hope of resuscitation.



**SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021**  
**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
Brian Bales - Lead Pastor

1. Martha runs to meet Jesus even though her brother has already been in a tomb for 4 days. What do you imagine she was expecting in that moment? What do her words mean to you?
  - a. How do her words imply that Jesus's power is only effective pre-death and only when He is on the scene? How can you relate to Martha's disappointment?
  
2. Martha understands who Jesus is, but she has placed limitations on Him. (if you had only been here...)
  - a. How do her words imply that Jesus's power is only effective pre-death and only when He is on the scene? How can you relate to Martha's disappointment?
  
3. From her response, does Jesus's answer comfort her or confuse her?
  - a. How do you see Martha still limiting Jesus?







**SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021**  
**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
 Brian Bales – Lead Pastor

7. Finally, back to Lazarus, who seems to have the smallest part in this story and doesn't even speak; what does his death and resurrection represent?
  - a. How is your life revealing that you have been resurrected and that the Holy Spirit lives in you?
  - b. List the ways that your life would be different if Sunday was just the beginning of living out the truth that Jesus is present with you 24/7.

**Personal Reflection**

How will you choose to live Monday–Saturday of this week expecting that Jesus is right there with you?

**Mediate on this verse throughout the week:**

*Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?*

*If I ascend to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.*

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle by the farthest sea, even there Your hand will guide me;*

*Your right hand will hold me fast. Psalm 139:7–10*