

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(Week 7)

1. Begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you clarity as you read.
2. Then with pen in hand, begin to mark it up and write thoughts and questions in the margin.
3. After spending time reading, underlining, circling, and making notes, answer the questions for each passage.

DAY 1

John 11:17-44 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

17 When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem. 19 Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary. They had come to comfort them because their brother was dead. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if 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. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to come into the world."

28 After she said this, she went back home. She called her sister Mary to one side to talk to her. "The Teacher is here," Martha said. "He is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Jesus had not yet entered the village. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 Some Jews had been comforting Mary in the house. They noticed how quickly she got up and went out. So they followed her. They thought she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 Mary reached the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she fell at his feet. She said, "Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died."

33 Jesus saw her crying. He saw that the Jews who had come along with her were crying also. His spirit became very sad, and he was troubled. 34 "Where have you put him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how much he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "He opened the eyes of the blind man. Couldn't he have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

38 Once more Jesus felt very sad. He came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone in front of 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 smell. Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up. He said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. 42 I know that you always hear me. But I said this for the benefit of the people standing here. I said it so they will believe that you sent me.”

43 Then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of linen. A cloth was around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the clothes he was buried in and let him go.”

Look again at the words of Martha (vv. 21-28,39), Mary (v. 32) and some Jews (v. 37). What level of faith did each of them have? What were they feeling toward Jesus? How do you identify with Martha, Mary, and the Jews when dealing with a crisis?

Go back through the passage and underline the words of Jesus. Circle any words in the passage that help us understand what Jesus was feeling. What do Jesus’ words, actions and emotions tell us about the way he cares for people?

*For the rest of the week, use the following questions to guide your time in the Word:
Before you read and meditate upon each passage, ask God to help you to know Jesus.*

- A. What does this teach me about Jesus (His message, His values, what He is passionate about)?*

- B. How does this knowledge challenge, change, and/or inspire me (in my beliefs, in my actions)? How is this knowledge affecting my story?*

- C. Who is God calling me to share this knowledge with today (in word and/or deed)?*

DAY 2

John 11:45-57 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Plan to Kill Jesus

45 Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did. So they believed in him.

46 But some of them went to the Pharisees. They told the Pharisees what Jesus had done. 47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What can we do?” they asked. “This man is performing many signs. 48 If we let him keep on doing this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come. They will take away our temple and our nation.”

49 One of the Jewish leaders spoke up. His name was Caiaphas. He was high priest at that time. He said, “You don’t know anything at all! 50 You don’t realize what is good for you. It is better if one man dies for the people than if the whole nation is destroyed.”

51 He did not say this on his own because he was high priest at that time. He prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation. 52 He also prophesied that Jesus would die for God’s children scattered everywhere. He would die to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on, the Jewish rulers planned to kill Jesus.

54 Jesus no longer moved around openly among the people of Judea. Instead, he went away to an area near the desert. He went to a village called Ephraim. There he stayed with his disciples.

55 It was almost time for the Jewish Passover Feast. Many people went up from the country to Jerusalem. They went there for the special washing that would make them pure before the Passover Feast. 56 They kept looking for Jesus as they stood in the temple courtyard. They asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the feast at all?” 57 But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders. They had commanded anyone who found out where Jesus was staying to report it. Then they could arrest him.

DAY 3

John 12:1-8 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Mary Pours Perfume on Jesus at Bethany

12 It was six days before the Passover Feast. Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. Lazarus was the one Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 A dinner was given at Bethany to honor Jesus. Martha served the food. Lazarus was among the people at the table with Jesus. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard. It was an expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the sweet smell of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot didn't like what Mary did. He was one of Jesus' disciples. Later he was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas said, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold? Why wasn't the money given to poor people? It was worth a year's pay." 6 He didn't say this because he cared about the poor. He said it because he was a thief. Judas was in charge of the money bag. He used to help himself to what was in it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "The perfume was meant for the day I am buried. 8 You will always have the poor among you. But you won't always have me."

DAY 4

John 12:9-19 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there, so they came. But they did not come only because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. After all, Jesus had raised him from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus too. 11 Because of Lazarus, many of the Jews were starting to follow Jesus. They were believing in him.

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

12 The next day the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted,

“Hosanna! ”

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Psalm 118:25,26)

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says,

15 “City of Zion, do not be afraid.

See, your king is coming.

He is sitting on a donkey’s colt.” (Zechariah 9:9)

16 At first, Jesus’ disciples did not understand all this. They realized it only after he had received glory. Then they realized that these things had been written about him. They realized that these things had been done to him.

17 A crowd had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead. So they continued to tell everyone about what had happened. 18 Many people went out to meet him. They had heard that he had done this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “This isn’t getting us anywhere. Look how the whole world is following him!”

DAY 5

John 12:20-36 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Tells About His Coming Death

20 There were some Greeks among the people who went up to worship during the feast. 21 They came to ask Philip for a favor. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Son of Man to receive glory. 24 What I'm about to tell you is true. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only one seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it. But anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it and have eternal life. 26 Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 "My soul is troubled. What should I say? 'Father, keep me from having to go through with this'? No. This is the very reason I have come to this point in my life. 28 Father, bring glory to your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven. It said, "I have brought glory to my name. I will bring glory to it again." 29 The crowd there heard the voice. Some said it was thunder. Others said an angel had spoken to Jesus.

30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now it is time for the world to be judged. Now the prince of this world will be thrown out. 32 And I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself." 33 He said this to show them how he was going to die.

34 The crowd spoke up. "The Law tells us that the Messiah will remain forever," they said. "So how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light. Do this before darkness catches up with you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. 36 While you have the light, believe in it. Then you can become children of light." When Jesus had finished speaking, he left and hid from them.