

Episode 7: The Last Sign

Everyone is still a bit shaken up from the attempted stoning. Big James is all patched up, little James is pushing through his pain, and everyone is talking not only about the stoning, but Lazarus' death. Jesus leads them on the journey to Bethany, and no one can decide whether they are going to be sitting shiva over Lazarus' death or something miraculous is about to happen.

Jesus and the disciples go to Bethany. Circle who comes out and meets Jesus first.

- **John 11:17-20 (ESV)** - ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

Martha talks to Jesus and shows him her faith. Underline Martha's responses displaying her belief in Jesus.

- **John 11:21-27 (ESV)** - ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ 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" ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Next read the passage below and circle who Jesus talks to:

- **John 11:32-34 (ESV)** - ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw

Bible Reference

Mary Magdelene and Little James are talking as James quotes Psalm 13. He reflects on how sleep is often referred to in the bible as death.

Read the full Psalm below:

- **Psalm 13:1-6 (ESV)** ¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

After reading the Psalm, underline the phrase that resonates with you the most at this time in your life, be honest!

her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Then comes the shortest verse in the bible. Jesus wept. If you struggle with memorizing verses, this is an easy one for you!

- **John 11:35 (ESV)** - *Jesus wept.*

We know that God is omniscient (all knowing), so it is not a surprise to Jesus that Lazarus is indeed dead. Why do you think he wept? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Jesus knows sorrow, he feels sadness and empathy towards his believers. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead, but he also knew what he was going to do and the joy that would bring to his friends. But Jesus doesn't just think about the resurrection of Lazarus, he meets Mary and Martha where they are in their grief and weeps with them. Think about it, we have a God that cares, that feels our emotions and weeps with us in our sorrows. That is amazing! Write a short prayer below reflecting on this.

Read the passage below and fill out the table on the next page.

- **John 11:38-44 (ESV)** - ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth, Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Did you notice the parallels between this encounter of Jesus and Lazarus and Jesus' own death and resurrection? Fill out the table below:

Question	Lazarus	Jesus
Where were the men?	(John 11:38)	(John 19:42)
What was removed?	(John 11:39 & 41)	(John 20:1)
What bound them?	(John 11:44)	(John 19:40 & John 20:5-7)
What was left in the tomb?	(John 11:44)	(John 20:9)

Not everyone is joyful over Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The Sadducees who witnessed this resurrection were outraged and went to tell the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. They are ready to stir up trouble over Jesus' last miracle. Thomas also was feeling a lot of emotions over Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and not Ramah. He starts to break down and sob. His sobs turn into anger then he starts to break things and yell in frustration. He talks to Jesus and Jesus explains that we will not always understand what the Father allows. He says to stay with him, and he will understand in time.

If you are going through something difficult right now and it just doesn't make sense, take this advice to heart. Stay with Jesus, don't give up on him. In time you will understand, and it might not be for weeks, months, or even years. It is possible you won't even understand on this side of heaven, but Jesus is worth it. Share your questions with God in a prayer below.

The episode ends with Mary sharing a poem that talks about the light and darkness. It is important to mention that this poem was entirely made up by the creators of The Chosen and is not from a writing of Mary Magdalene. Mary does not have a book in the bible, the poem was inspired by Psalm 139 and Isaiah 53 but is not biblical.

*When Jesus is talking to Lazarus the book of Isaiah was quoted. **Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)** – He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
