

John 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

Analysis

This verse introduces the greatest sign in John's Gospel, foreshadowing Christ's own resurrection. Lazarus's name means 'God has helped', prophetically fitting. His identification through his sisters (Mary and Martha) shows the family's prominence in the believing community. Bethany, meaning 'house of affliction', becomes the place where Christ's glory triumphs over death itself, demonstrating His power over humanity's greatest enemy.

Historical Context

Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem, a small village on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. This proximity to Jerusalem meant many Jews came to mourn, providing many witnesses to the miracle. Archaeological evidence suggests a first-century tomb there.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Lazarus's resurrection preview Christ's power over death in your life?
2. What 'deaths' in your life need Christ's resurrection power?

Interlinear Text

Ἦν	δέ	τις	ἀσθενῶν	Λάζαρος	ἀπὸ	Βηθανίας	ἐκ
man was	Now	a certain	sick	named Lazarus	of	Bethany	G1537
G2258	G1161	G5100	G770	G2976	G575	G963	
τῆς	κώμης	Μαρίας	καὶ	Μάρθας	τῆς	ἀδελφῆς	αὐτῆς
G3588	the town	of Mary	and	Martha	G3588	sister	her
	G2968	G3137	G2532	G3136		G79	G846

Additional Cross-References

John 12:17 (Parallel theme): The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

Matthew 21:17 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

John 11:11 (Parallel theme): These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

John 12:9 (Parallel theme): Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

Acts 9:37 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Mark 11:1 (Parallel theme): And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

John 11:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

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