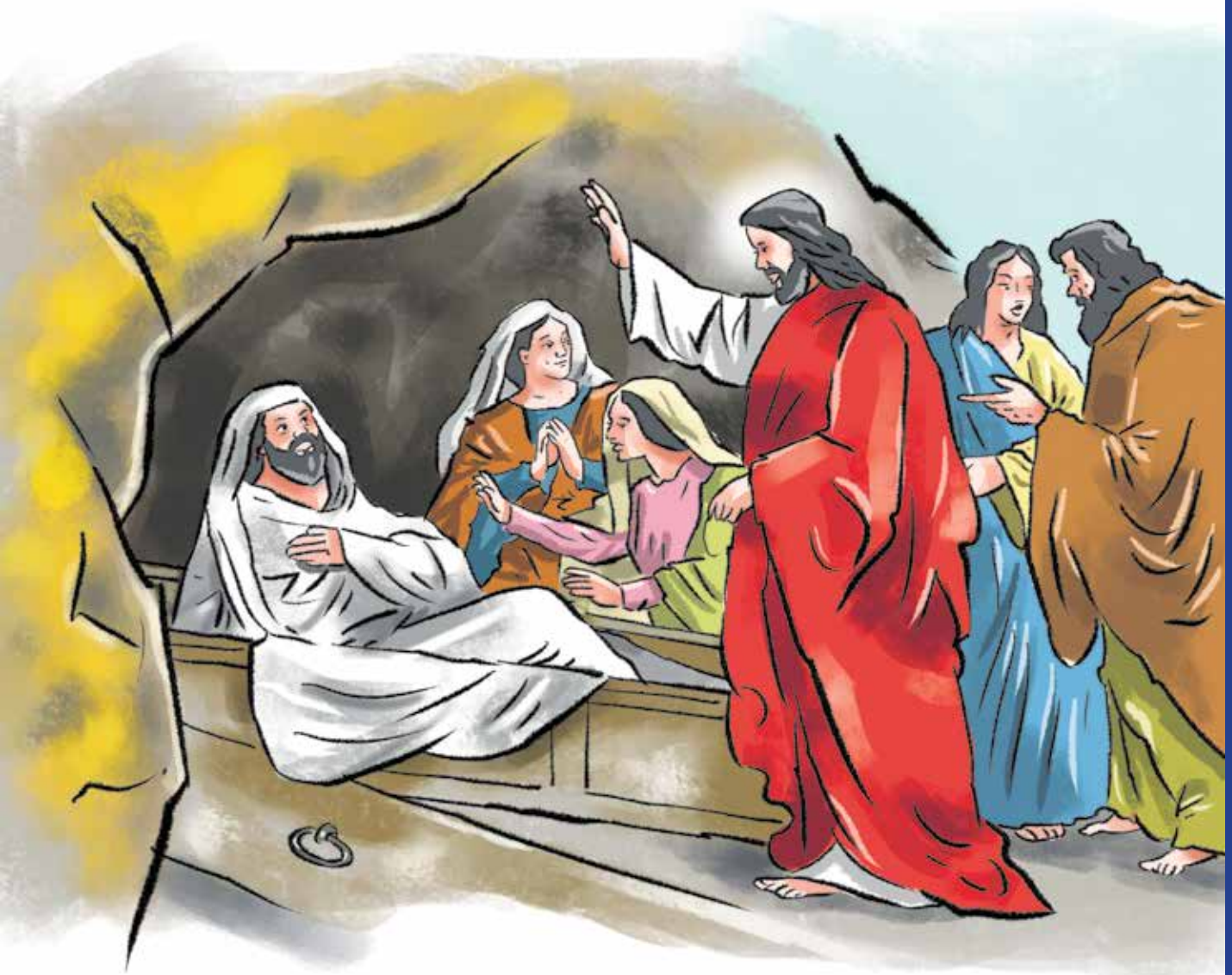




“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

“The truth of the Resurrection gives life to every other area of Gospel truth”... Without the Resurrection, Christianity would be so much wishful thinking, taking its place alongside all other human philosophy and religious speculation – John MacArthur



“I am the Resurrection and the Life,” Jesus said to Martha, sister of Lazarus (*John 11*) at the tomb of Lazarus in Bethany. When He brought back Lazarus to life, Jesus proved that He is indeed a life-giving God even as He foretold His own resurrection which would occur in a few days.

This Jesus, who is life, makes Christianity different from all other religions. As Pastor Adrian Rogers says: “The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions.”

The words of Jesus to Martha makes Christianity different and distinct with non-negotiable values and principles and thus gives a unique identity to this world religion with 2.5 billion followers. For John the Evangelist this was his favourite theme – the identity of Jesus - the resurrection and life.

If Resurrection is freedom from death, the Life that accompanies it is freedom in life and for life. This freedom is obvious when Jesus cries out at the tomb: “Lazarus, come out!” The freedom does not stop there because it is also meant to be a forward movement. That is why Jesus says when He finds Lazarus bound by burial bands: “Untie him and let him go.”

The freedom from death that Jesus offers is a freedom that requires us to move towards life-giving actions in our own lives.

The Lazarus narrative comes as a climax of the ‘signs’ in Jesus’ public ministry, manifesting an aspect of His mission to reveal the Father. That is why Jesus said: “I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me.”

This is the identity of Jesus that John wants to establish: Jesus is from the Father, is one with the Father and therefore, He is the Resurrection and Life.

If resurrection and life constitute the identity of Jesus it is because He was ready to give His life for others which very well reflects in the Last Supper and on Calvary.





Word of God

John 11:41-44

They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave cloths, and with a cloth around his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."



Poem: *The Raising of Lazarus* is a famous poem by Franz Wright adapted from the original notebook fragment written by Rainer Maria Rilke in Spain in 1913. There is also another poem by Seamus Hogan of the same title which is a rather short one in comparison to the first.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Talk to someone who has visited the Tomb of Resurrection while on a Holy Land tour. Write what you heard about it. Better if you can get a memento.

Bible@Home - John 11: 1-57

MY TASK THIS WEEK

To Watch

To Read

To Do