

Lazarus in the News!

ROLES:

ANCHOR
REPORTER
MARY
MARTHA
JESUS
THE PEOPLE
APOSTLE
THOMAS
LAZARUS

ANCHOR 1:

This is [NAME] for Orthodox News Network. We have breaking news! A very beloved Bethany resident died today. Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, has died. We turn to [REPORTER] who is on the scene.

REPORTER:

Thank you. I'm here, about two miles outside of Jerusalem in the quiet suburb of Bethany, where Lazarus has died. I asked his sisters, Mary and Martha, for comments and here's what they said.

MARY:

My dear brother was so sick -- he was sick for such a long time. We knew he was dying, and we hoped...

MARTHA:

We hoped that Jesus of Nazareth would come! We sent word, we asked Him to come. We said, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." I just know that if He had been here, our brother wouldn't have died.

REPORTER:

The streets here in Bethany are filled with mourners. I spoke to several of them.

THE PEOPLE:

[insert video clips of various kids crying and grieving]

REPORTER:

That's the scene here in Bethany. Two sad sisters and one sad town, mourning the loss of beloved Lazarus. Back to you.

ANCHOR:

What a terrible shame. The sister, Martha, said that Jesus had been called. Is there any word from Him at all?

REPORTER:

No, there's no word, and it's been four days. We've lost our hope. After four days, Lazarus must be dead.

ANCHOR:

Well there you have it, folks. Lazarus is dead. How sad! Up next, our experts will weigh in on Pontius Pilate's latest policy changes.

WAIT! This just in! We have a development in the situation! Our reporter is on the scene in Bethany. What's happening?

REPORTER:

What an amazing development! Just as I was signing off, we saw Jesus of Nazareth walking right into Bethany, surrounded by His disciples. I spoke with two of the Apostles.

APOSTLE:

Yes, Jesus knows that Lazarus has died, and He is headed for Mary and Martha's home. I can't quite explain what is going on. He knew that Lazarus was sick, but He waited on purpose -- and now that four days have gone by, He said, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." so we thought, well good. If he's just asleep, then he'll get well." But then Our Lord said, "Lazarus is dead."

THOMAS:

It was pretty dangerous to come this way. There are people who want to stone Him, so it's a big deal. But if He's coming, I say, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." So here we are.

REPORTER:

Wow, what a strange situation. Oh wait -- here's Jesus now! Jesus, can you explain why You have come, four days after Lazarus has died?

JESUS:

I am glad for your sake that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him. *(leaves abruptly)*

REPORTER:

There you have it, folks. I'm not sure what that means, but it sounds like He has his reasons. It looks like Jesus went to the house of Mary and Martha and talked to the sisters for a minute, but now He is headed to the tomb of Lazarus. Let's ask the sisters what's happening.

MARTHA:

When Jesus came by, I ran out to see Him, and I told Him that if He had been here, my brother would not have died, but He said the strangest thing. He said that my brother would rise again, and of course I *know* that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." but He didn't seem to be talking about the last day. I don't know what to make of it, but I know that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and I'm just going to take a backseat on this one.

MARY:

When Martha came and told me Jesus was here, I came out and said the same thing -- if You had been here, my brother would not have died. He was so sad. And I just know, God would do anything Jesus asked Him to do!

REPORTER:

Here's Jesus now. Jesus, what is happening here? Did you say that Lazarus would rise again?

JESUS:

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

REPORTER:

And that's how this strange situation in Bethany is playing out. Back to you, [Name of Anchor].

ANCHOR:

Wow, how strange. It's already been four days. Obviously, Lazarus can't rise again. And if he could, imagine the smell!

REPORTER:

[Laugh] Exactly. That's exactly the truth --- whoa, wait! Everyone is following Jesus to Lazarus's tomb! Let's see what the commotion is.

THE PEOPLE:

[insert clips of kids clamoring excitedly, crying out about with these lines:

- Jesus wept!
- See how Jesus loved him!

- If he opened the eyes of the blind, why couldn't he have saved Lazarus?]

REPORTER:

We are outside the tomb, and we can hear Jesus talking. Let's listen.

JESUS:

Take away the stone.

MARTHA:

Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.

JESUS:

Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? Thank you, guys, for taking away the stone.

[lifting eyes to heaven]

Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.

[now loudly]

Lazarus, come forth!

REPORTER:

You are not going to believe this, but Lazarus is getting up! Yes, he is getting up, and he is coming out of the tomb! Oh my goodness, he is walking! He's all wrapped up in his graveclothes, but he is definitely walking. Oh, Jesus is giving some orders. Let's listen.

JESUS:

Loose him, and let him go. Take off those linens!

MARY:

Our brother lives again! This is amazing! God is glorious in His works!

MARTHA:

Oh I knew that whatever Jesus asked of God, God would do! This is wonderful!

THE PEOPLE:

[insert clips of celebratory people, some of whom call out, "He must be the true Son of God! Let's follow Him!", etc.]

REPORTER:

What an amazing day. Here comes Lazarus himself! Lazarus, how are you?

LAZARUS:

Well, I do feel a little stiff. I was dead for four days, but now I'm alive! Thanks be to God! Now I'm off to see my sisters and my Lord, if you don't mind.

REPORTER:

Yes, of course! You heard it from Lazarus himself!

ANCHOR:

Are you telling me that Jesus of Nazareth, the carpenter's son, just raised Lazarus of Bethany from the dead?

REPORTER:

I saw it with my own two eyes! That's what I'm telling you. It's amazing, and it's true!

ANCHOR:

Well, then obviously, He must be the Son of God!

REPORTER:

That's the popular opinion around here. Wait a minute -- a crowd is forming. Something is happening! Everyone is headed to Jerusalem, and they all have something in their hands.

ANCHOR:

Tell us, what's in their hands? What do the people have?

REPORTER:

Palms! They have palms! Oh my goodness, it's a victory parade! Look at that... they are waving their palms and crying out, "Hosana!" to honor Jesus!

THE PEOPLE:

[insert clips of kids waving palms and crying, "Hosana!"]

REPORTER:

And there you have it. Lazarus died, and then Jesus brought him back to life, and now people are so excited that they are honoring him as He enters Jerusalem. Back to you.

ANCHOR:

Amazing! What a story. Up next: A new disease is sweeping the Holy Land. Find out all about it, after a word from our sponsors.

THE END