

A Graveyard Miracle

Date: August 2, 2026 | Speaker: Pastor Brent Snook | Series: Supernatural Stories for the Summer

Main Verse: [John 11:1-44](#)

Supernatural Stories for the Summer – Series

A Graveyard Miracle

Pastor Brent Snook · August 2, 2026 · AM Service

Text: [John 11:1-44](#)

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." – [John 11:25](#)

Today we come to the seventh and final miracle in John's Gospel – the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It is the most dramatic of them all. The first miracle was at a wedding in Cana – Jesus is with us in the **happy times** of life. The last miracle is at a graveyard in Bethany – Jesus is with us in the **sad times** of life. In times of gladness and in times of sadness – you can count on the presence of Jesus.

Series Review: Marriage Miracle (John 2) · Miracle from a Distance (John 4) · Miracle for Life's Disabilities (John 5) · Miracle for Eternity (John 6) · Miracle on the Sea (John 6) · Miracle for Your Sight (John 9) · A Graveyard Miracle (John 11)

I. **CIRCUMSTANCES** IN THIS MIRACLE – vv. 1–5

Lazarus – beloved brother of Mary and Martha – was critically ill and near death. This family was greatly disturbed. But someone else loved Lazarus deeply: **Jesus**.

When you want to know how much Jesus loves you – don't look at your circumstances. **Look at the Cross**. Problems are platforms for God to work miracles.

"Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick." – [John 11:3](#)

When harsh circumstances arrive at your home – **send word to Jesus**.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." – [Psalm 46:1](#)

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." – [Philippians 4:6–7](#)

II. **CONFUSION** IN THIS MIRACLE – v. 6

The sisters expected Jesus to come immediately. But He stayed away two more days. *"He loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus so much – that He stayed away."* From graveyard level, it can appear that He no longer cares.

The Lord's delays have a purpose beyond our understanding. Sometimes God's **delays** are for His **display**. There is no panic in Heaven – only plans.

"How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever?" – [Psalm 13:1](#)

"Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?" — [Job 13:24](#)

"LORD, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me?" — [Psalm 88:14](#)

III. [CONVERSATIONS](#) IN THIS MIRACLE — vv. 20–34

Mary and Martha were very different — and both responded to Jesus differently.

A. Martha — The Worker

Martha was always busy, impulsive, and serving. She went immediately to meet Jesus — but her emotions led her. Be careful where your emotions take you. Emotion is a God-given gift — but it must be kept in check by God's Word. Don't make decisions based on emotion. The anchor is Scripture.

B. Mary — The Worshipper

Mary was always at the feet of Jesus. She had developed a faith of steel — and she was more prepared for the crisis than Martha. When problems come, take your questions to the feet of Jesus.

"Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet." — [John 11:32](#)

C. Jesus — The Great I Am

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." — [John 11:25](#)

IV. [COMPASSION](#) IN THIS MIRACLE — v. 35

When Jesus saw Mary weeping and the Jews weeping with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled — deeply moved by the presence of death and the pain it brings. Then came the shortest verse in the King James Bible:

"Jesus wept." — [John 11:35](#)

V. [COMMAND](#) IN THIS MIRACLE — vv. 39–44

"And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth." — [John 11:43–44](#)

If Jesus hadn't called Lazarus by name — every dead man in that graveyard would have come forth. One day, Jesus will return with a shout and all His people will come forth.

This miracle pictures the mission of the church:

- Call forth the dead — that is evangelism
 - Unwrap the saints — that is discipleship
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3 Truths to Know About Death

1. Death Is Simply a [Transition](#)

Our body goes into the ground — but our spirit goes immediately to Heaven.

"...to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." — [2 Corinthians 5:8](#)

"One day you will hear that Billy Graham has died. Don't you believe it! On that day I will be more alive than ever before. I will have just changed addresses." — **Billy Graham**

2. Death Is a **Reunion** with Friends and Loved Ones Who Are Saved

Glorified bodies — but still *you*. Everything in Heaven is far better. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John had never seen Moses and Elijah — but they knew them instantly.

3. Death Is Not the End — But the Beginning of **Eternal Life**

Heaven is a real place — but so is Hell. God wants nobody to go to Hell. Our way to Heaven has been paid for — but you must accept His payment.

"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." — [2 Peter 3:9](#)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." — [Romans 5:8](#)

Personal Takeaways

Enter any thoughts about today's message.