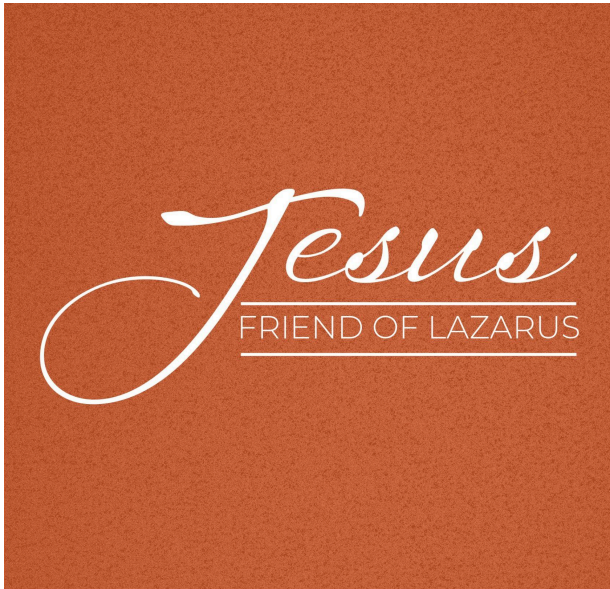


JESUS, FRIEND OF... LAZARUS

May 3, 2026

Preaching: Holly Fuqua, Associate Minister



John 11:1-6

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Think back on the map of your friendships, from your first playground friend to the people in your life today. How has that inner circle shifted over time? Are you still holding onto those childhood roots, or have you found yourself outgrowing certain seasons of friendship? If everything went sideways tomorrow, who is the one person you'd call without hesitation?
3. In the quiet village of Bethany, Jesus found a rare sanctuary. With Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, he wasn't a miracle worker or a teacher; he was simply a friend sharing a meal. Who in your life provides that same 'Bethany' for you? Where can you laugh without holding back or weep without explanation?
4. Read John 11: 20-21, 32. Mary and Martha felt safe enough to be honest with Jesus about their disappointment in his delay of visiting Lazarus. How good are you at waiting? Has God ever kept you waiting? Have you had a moment where you were completely honest

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with Jesus? Which of your friendships are strong enough to handle total honesty, even when you are frustrated or hurt?

5. Read John 11:35. Jesus wept. Why do you think Jesus was weeping? Jesus knew He was about to perform a miracle and bring Lazarus back to life. Why do you think He still took the time to cry? When was the last time you wept?

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