

Picture Study, March 24-25, 2020

If you would like to learn more, click all the blue words.

Today we will be studying another fresco painted by Giotto in the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, Italy. Do you remember about [the chapel where last week's fresco was painted](#)? The theme of the decoration in Scrovegni is salvation, so the paintings point to our Savior. To remind us of our need, frescos of the last judgment dominate one wall of the chapel. One series focuses on the life of his mother Mary and the rest, on Jesus himself.

We do not know much about Giotto but some say he was an ugly man who made beautiful art. It was said that there was no uglier man in the city of [Florence, Italy where he built his bell tower](#). A famous writer named [Dante](#) visited Giotto while he was painting this chapel and the artist's children were under foot. Dante joked, "How could a man who painted such beautiful pictures could have such plain children?"

Now, let's focus on the painting. Keep in mind that, before Giotto, artists did not focus on the emotions of people. Even in the most dramatic situation, they looked peaceful and serene. Giotto was the first to capture

how people felt. In this painting, some people are grieving at the death of their dear friend Lazarus while others stand in amazement that, after three days of being in a tomb, he is alive. In this moment, the two sisters are pleading at the feet of Jesus for help, not yet realizing their prayers have been answered.

What do you notice about the main subject of the painting, Jesus and Lazarus? How are the groups of people reacting? What can you tell about the background scenery? Does this painting remind you of anything?

If you would like to read about this scene in the Bible, [click here](#).