

“Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead”

John 11:25-44

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Teaching Aim: To explore the circumstances surrounding the death and resurrection of Lazarus of Bethany. To examine the great faith that Martha and Mary demonstrated. To believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life, understanding that he who believes in Jesus shall live, even though He dies. To recognize the raising of Lazarus is just a preview of the final bodily resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ. To understand, it is not wrong to weep when a loved one or friend dies, even Jesus wept!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-27)

1. **Verse 25** is the fifth of seven great “*I Am*” statements in the Gospel of John. Who did Jesus say that He is in **verse 25**? What can we learn about Jesus from this statement? What truth do we find in **verse 26**? What did Jesus mean? What can we learn from **1 Cor. 15:53-57**?

2. What kind of life is Jesus talking about in **verses 25 & 26**? How is this different from those who rose physically in the Bible? What is the key to having eternal life in Christ? (See **John 3:16; Act 16:31**) Do you have saving faith? At what point in your life did you receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? When you die, why should you be allowed into heaven?

3. What question did Jesus ask Martha in **verse 26b**? How did she respond in **verse 27**? What Bible great responded to Jesus in a similar fashion at Caesarea Philippi? (See **Matt. 16:13-17**?) Generally, we think of the busyness of Martha instead of her spirituality. (See **Luke 10:40-42**) What can we learn from **verse 27** about Martha’s faith?

Part II: Jesus meets with Martha and Mary in their moment of grief (John 11:28-35)

1. According to **verse 28b**, why did Martha go and get Mary? Why did she do this secretly and not out in the open? (See **John 8:58-59; 10:37-40**) Why was it important for Jesus to remain out of public view until the Passover Festival? (See **1 Cor. 5:7**)

2. Most rabbis refused to teach women. What can we learn about Jesus from His encounter with Martha and Mary in **John chapter 11**? How about His encounter with the woman at the well in Samaria? (See **John 4:27**)

3. How did Mary respond to the news Martha brought (**vs. 29**)? How would you respond if you heard that Jesus is calling you today? Note: He is! Why do you think Jesus remained outside of the village of Bethany (**vs. 30**)? How close was Bethany to Jerusalem?

4. Many Jewish friends had surrounded Martha and Mary to comfort them at the loss of their brother (**vs. 31**). What do you think went through their minds as Mary hurried out of the room? Do you think they expected to meet Jesus as they followed her?

5. How did Mary react to the sight of Jesus (**vs. 32**)? It is interesting to point out that all three times we see Mary in Scripture, she is humbly at the feet of Jesus. Mary worshiped Jesus. (See **Luke 10:38-39; John 11:32; 12:1-3**) What can we learn about the spiritual state of the sisters from their encounters with Jesus?

6. It is noteworthy that Mary's words in **verse 32** are the only recorded words of Mary in the Bible. What did she say (**vs. 21**)? Do you think the sisters may have previously had this discussion with each other since the death of their brother four days earlier?

7. John MacArthur writes, *"According to Jewish oral tradition, the funeral custom indicated that even a poor family must hire at least two flute players and a professional wailing woman to mourn the dead. Because the family may have been well-to-do, a rather large group appears present."* What did Jesus notice as Mary and her fellow mourners approached Him (**vs. 33**)? How did Jesus react at their emotion? In the English language, we could easily misunderstand that Jesus was *"groaning"* out of compassion for their loss of Lazarus. What do you learn from your Bible commentaries about the Greek word translated *"groaned"* in **verse 33**? Does this surprise you? What was Jesus angry at? Do you ever get angry at sin (and the father of it) which causes so much death and pain?

8. The ladies were acting like unbelieving pagans, we see much the same at the funerals of unbelievers today. What instruction did Paul give to the Thessalonians in **1 Thess. 4:13-14**? Why is the metaphor of sleep used so often in the Bible to describe dead believers?

9. Back in **verses 11-14**, Jesus supernaturally knew that Lazarus had died; this was a demonstration of His deity. How is the human nature of Christ revealed in **verse 34**?

10. In **verse 33** we see the indignation of Jesus, He was "*furious*" at the sin that had caused so much pain and death in the world. In **verse 35**, we see another side of Jesus and His human nature. What is it? Have you ever tried to memorize a verse of the Bible? How difficult was it? What is the shortest verse in the Bible? Can you memorize **verse 35**?

11. It is okay to weep when a loved one or friend has died (**vs. 35**). What can we learn from **Rom. 12:15**? What are some effective ways to minister to those who have lost loved ones?

12. It is important for us to realize that Jesus understands our pain and sorrow. (See **Isa. 53:3**) How is Jesus using that understanding today? (See **Heb 4:14-16**)

Part III: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead after being in the tomb for four days (John 11:36-44)

1. The tears of Jesus did not go unnoticed (**vs. 36**). What did the Jewish mourners assume was the cause of Jesus' tears? Why do you think Jesus was crying?

2. It is important to note the Bible records no one dying in the presence of Jesus. Were the mourners right in questioning the motives of Jesus (**vs. 37**)? Why did Jesus delay two days after learning that Lazarus was sick (See **John 11:1-6, 17**)?

3. What was Jesus doing as He approached the cave (**vs. 38**)? Why? What can we learn about Lazarus from the place in which he was buried? Could every family afford their own cave?

4. What command did Jesus make in **verse 39**? Why did this command trouble Martha? Martha had initially demonstrated a remarkable amount of faith in **verse 27**. How did she flunk the test of faith in **verse 39**? What is meant by the statement, *"It is one thing to believe in God, it is quite another to believe God."*

5. Did Martha appear to doubt the ability of Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead after so long? Why or why not? It appears that no one but Jesus expected a miracle. Is it significant that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days? What makes the number four so significant?

6. How did Jesus remind Martha of **verses 25 and 26** in **verse 40**? What would the resurrection of Lazarus lead to (**vs. 40b**)?

7. Were the people obedient to Jesus in **verse 41**? Why do you think Jesus prayed out loud in **verse 42**? Could Jesus have accomplished the same miracle by praying to His Father silently? Why do you think Jesus prayed out loud?

8. **Verse 43** was a command given by Jesus with authority. What was this command? Augustine once said that if Jesus had not designated Lazarus by name, all the graves would have been empty at His command. (See **John 5:28-29**) How do you think the witnesses present reacted when Lazarus was raised from the dead?

9. The Gospel of John announced through seven signs that Israel's long-awaited Messiah had arrived. What were they? (See **John 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-15; 6:5-13; 6:16-21; 9:1-7; 11:1-44**) What is the final sign found in this Gospel?

10. Jesus had raised two other people from the dead (Jairus' daughter; the widow from Nain's son); both were raised shortly after their deaths, not four days later. What was Lazarus' response when Christ called him (**vs. 44**)? What did Jesus tell the people to do? Why? Many Christians are still bound in the gravesclothes of the world today. What kind of gravesclothes do some Christians need to take off? (See **1 Cor. 6:9-11**) Should we still be helping people out of their gravesclothes today? In what way was this Lazarus an answer to the rich man's request in **Luke 16:27-31**? What did it prove? (See **John 12:9-11**)
11. Regenerate (or born-again) Christians have already been raised from death to life spiritually. (See **Eph. 2:1-5; Col. 2:13-14**) Why is this extremely important to you? It is important to note that the resurrection of Lazarus was just a preview of the future bodily resurrection that will occur at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. (See **1 Thess. 4:16-17**) According to **1 Thess. 4:18**, how should Christians respond?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- **Verse 25** is the fifth of seven great "I Am" statements found in the Gospel of John.
- Jesus said, "*I Am 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.*" (**John 11:25-26**)
- In **verse 27** Martha made the same confession to Jesus as Peter did at Caesarea Philippi. (See **Matt. 16:13-16**)
- Every time we see Mary in Scripture, she is worshiping at the feet of Jesus.
- The raising of Lazarus from the dead after four days in the grave was perhaps the greatest miracle of Jesus to this point.
- Though raised from the dead, Lazarus would die physically once again.
- Born-again believers will live forever (spiritually first and physically second) in Christ.
- It is important for believers to remove the gravesclothes of the world so they can be all that God wants them to be.