

Lazarus, Come Forth!

Today we are going to look at the final miracle John records of Jesus' earthly ministry. We have seen Jesus turn water into wine, walk on water, feed 5,000, heal the blind and lame, etc. but today He will bring the dead to life. This is Jesus' final statement to the Jews of who He truly is. You see, Jesus wants everyone to know He is not just about making sure you have food and aren't sick, but He has power over death itself. He wants to give us eternal life.

A few reflection questions before we look at God's Word:

- 1) What do you think heaven will be like? What are you most looking forward to in heaven?

- 2) How often do you think about eternity? How do you think it would affect you today thinking about eternity more?

John 11:1-6 ¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

- 3) From verse 4, what does Jesus say is the reason of the sickness? When you are sick, have you ever thought of your sickness in this way? Why or why not?

- 4) From verse 6, what does Jesus do when He hears Lazarus is sick? Why is this a strange response? What does this show about Jesus' priorities?

John 11:7-16 ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- 5) The disciples are worried about going back near Jerusalem since the religious leaders had just tried to stone Jesus (we will see in verse 18, Lazarus' house is only 2 miles from Jerusalem). How does Jesus respond to their fears (see vs. 9-10)?

- 6) What does this show that Jesus is trusting? How might we trust God in the same way, especially in our COVID world?

- 7) From verse 15, why is Jesus glad that Lazarus died? What is Jesus' ultimate goal?

John 11:17-28 ¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

- 8) From verse 17, how long had Lazarus been dead? Why do you think John recorded that detail?

- 9) What did Mary think Jesus could have done if He had come before Lazarus died? What did she believe Jesus could do now that Lazarus had died?

- 10) What is Jesus' promise in verse 25-26? Think about all the people right now that are afraid of death. How might this promise give hope?

- 11) Immediately after Martha confesses her belief in Jesus, why do you think she leaves? Why not just stay with Jesus?

John 11:29-37 ²⁹And when [Mary] heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

- 12) Mary basically says the same thing to Jesus in verse 32 that Martha said in verse 21. What is different about Jesus' response? Why do you think Jesus responds so differently?

- 13) If Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, why do you think Jesus wept (vs. 35)? What does this say about the way He cared for them?

John 11:38-46 ³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

14) Why didn't Martha want to remove the stone? What did Jesus remind her of?

15) Where do we struggle with basic obedience to the Lord? What might we be missing out on when we refuse to obey?

16) From verses 42 and 45, what was Jesus' goal in performing this miracle? What would it look like for you to grow in your belief in this time of worldwide sickness?

17) From verse 43, Jesus just spoke and Lazarus was raised from the dead. Think through Jesus' other miracles and what else obeyed His voice. Think through creation (see Genesis 1), and how God created just by speaking. What does this tell you about His spoken promises to us? What are some promises we need to place our hope in today?

Consider ending your time by using the song, ["So Will I \(100 Billion X\)"](#) as a prayer to the Lord. It talks so much about the power of God speaking and my response.