

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

John 11:28-54

Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy

²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."²⁹ As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him.³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"³⁷ And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.⁴⁸ If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."⁴⁹ And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,⁵⁰ nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."⁵¹ Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,⁵² and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.⁵³ Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.⁵⁴ Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples.

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus call for Mary out to meet Him outside of town? (Notice how Martha told her this secretly.)
2. Why did the people with Mary inside the house follow her when she left? v 31 How does this become significant as the event develops in the following verses?
3. How does Mary express her dependence upon Jesus when she sees Him? She says what her sister had said in v21 - was this a complaint or more her faith in what Jesus would have been able to do?
4. What caused Jesus to groan, be troubled in spirit? What emotion did He express? What lesson can we learn about grief at the death of loved ones?
5. What is the significance of His tears? Were His tears only for Mary and Martha? What did the Jews say about His tears?
6. Why did Martha object to opening the tomb? Why does Jesus remind her how she would see the glory of God?
7. Why did Jesus pray at this time and what does His prayer show us about His relationship to the Father? Why was Jesus especially thankful at this time? vs 41-42
8. What was the purpose of Jesus' loud cry in vs 43? How is John's report of this great miracle notable for its brevity?
9. Why was it now significant that all the people had followed Mary? What were the different reactions of the many people to all they had seen Jesus do? vs 45-46
10. What caused the emergency council of the Jewish leaders? What do their words reveal about the evidence of Jesus' miracles and their real motives? How was Caiaphas a prophet beyond his awareness in the words he uttered?