

Do You Believe This?

John 11:17-44 ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When 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. ³² Now 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." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, 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 the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I 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." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The 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."

❖ Intro

- We come today to what may seem like the craziest of all stories in the N.T.
 - A man being Dead for 4 days is brought back to life
- This recording of what Jesus did while He was here
 - Should have the greatest impact on how you view your current Life, Future Death, and eternal Destiny
 - Repeat
- **In John ch. 10 the people He has been trying to convince asked him an important question**
 - **John 10:24** ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."
 - This is a question we should all at some point ask.
 - And after asking this question there should be a response like no other we have ever had.
 - Jesus Answered them by pointing to what He had told them and what He had done before them.
 - Then He explained to them who He is
 - He stood there 2000 years ago telling people He was the Christ
 - and He had come to save people from their sins.
 - He continues to speak today through His words recorded in the Bible.
 - He is speaking today through what He did by raising Lazarus from the dead.

➤ **Remember:**

- This is not a lecture:
 - This is not just some story for you to learn some facts so you can go on American Bible Challenge
- **These are words of Life...**
 - And they should transform :
 - ◆ Not just the way you live.... Rather; Who You Are
 - ◆ God's Word can give you eternal life and transform you into one of His Children.
 - ◆ Do not be fooled into thinking that everyone is a child of God...
 - That is not what God's word teaches...
 - God is everyone's creator... and He is the originator of everyone's life.
 - But there is a special designation given to those who follow Jesus
 - **John 1:12 ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,**
 - Make sure that is You....

❖ **Jesus' Declaration of Who He is in John**

➤ **This is important:**

- Because what we read in scripture today would be considered the greatest miracle that Jesus did.
 - Outside of His own resurrection that is.
- And what Jesus did in this miracle is a great display of who He is.
- It is a Declaration of the Character of God.
 - However many years ago.... Our country was not a country but rather a bunch of colonies
 - And our forefather wrote a Declaration of Independence.
 - ◆ And in that Declaration, we declared who we are and what we stand for and who we are going to be.
- Jesus is doing that and so much more...

➤ **For the Glory of God**

- Last Week we looked at how death can display the glory of God
- We explained that **glory** truly meant **the showing of what makes something Magnificent or beautiful**
- We also saw that when Jesus glorified God and subsequently (or in doing so) Himself
 - It was for our benefit.
 - Man profits when God's glory is displayed...
 - ◆ Even through very tough and trying times...

➤ **Throughout the Book of John Jesus is declaring to us who He is:**

- Water into wine Declared: He will provide for us and purify us
- Woman at the Well: Declared how important each person is to us... Even who society thinks is the worst
 - He also declared He was like a source of life giving water that will never end
- Healing the lame man showed His compassion and ability to heal physical problems
- He called himself the light of the world... Telling us we are in darkness and He brings light so we can see
 - And that light is life to those who see it
- He calls himself the Bread of Life telling us that through His body He will provide spiritual bread that gives us eternal life
- He declares that He is the door for people to enter into heaven.
 - He calls himself the Shepherd of the sheep.
 - And He lets us know that His sheep WILL hear his voice

- And they will come to Him and follow him.

❖ An Amazing Thing:

- **The People that wanted to kill Him did not deny His miracles**
 - They tried... They did bring the blind man before them for questioning...
 - But after the proof was put before them, they could not deny the truth...
- **Jesus did many miracles that they were stunned by.... And they would ask questions like:**
 - **John 10:20-21 ²⁰ Many of them said, "He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?" ²¹ Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"**
 - They did not deny His power... Only its source...
 - We have the same opportunity today
 - Let's look at the Miracle

❖ Jesus Arrives

- Lazarus has been dead four days
- Many people had come to try to console Mary and Martha at the loss of their brother
- Martha went out to meet Jesus as He was coming to see them.
- She meets him... and almost accuses Him saying
 - If you had been here my brother would not have died...
 - She was not just declaring Jesus power that she believed in...
 - But pointing out His absence
- **But then you see her belief**
 - Even now...
 - She says even now God will give you what you ask for...
 - (That is the kind of friend you want to have right?)
- **Jesus tells her that Lazarus will rise again...**
 - And Martha says she knows He will in the last day...
 - Then Jesus says something Magnificent.... Something Great:
 - And I want to really just focus on this verse... This is the main verse in this section...
 - I was going to go through the whole narrative and come back and focus on this...
 - **But let's look at it now...**
 - I want you to hear what He is saying... then the rest of the story will show you what He is saying
 - ◆ What He does after this shows you in detail Who Jesus Is
 - ◆ And What Believing on Him will result in for that believing person...
 - ◆ And you need to see how He responds to Lazarus "death"
 - ◆ Is how He responds to ours....
 - ◆ OH HOW HE LOVES US.... Not just Lazarus... Not just Martha, Not Just Mary.... You And Me...
 - If you believe

❖ The Resurrection and the Life...

- **John 11:25-26 ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**
- Resurrection and the Life

- She believed in a future day.... Jesus is saying He is that day...
- Not only will it happen... He is the resurrection and the life!
- Whoever believes in me
- Though He die
- He shall live
- Everyone who lives and believes in me
- Shall never die
- Do you believe this?
- HE IS THAT POWERFUL!
 - This is what is at stake when you say no to Jesus....
 - When you do not believe.... This is what is at stake... Eternal life vs Eternal Death

❖ **Jesus Asks for Mary**

- Mary had stayed behind...
 - From the story you see there was a unique bond between Mary and Jesus...
 - She was the one who had anointed Jesus feet with ointment and wiped it with her hair
 - ◆ Wow... that is humility and worship.
 - ◆ That was her showing us how we are to respond to Jesus...
- Jesus asks for her, and she quickly comes
- She falls at Jesus' feet (again) and says the same thing as Martha
 - If you had been here my brother would not have died

❖ **Jesus is Deeply Moved**

- Jesus sees her weeping and the people around her weeping
- The text says.... **“He was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled”**
- So He asks them where they had laid him...
- So they show Him...

❖ **Jesus Weeps**

- **Vs 35 – Jesus wept.**
- Those around responded by saying... Look at how he loved him
- Others just wondered why the man that made the blind to see, didn't heal the one He loved so much...
- They forgot:
 - This was done for God's glory.... Remember:
 - **John 11:4⁴ But 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.”**
- **Focus in on Jesus emotion here:**
 - Deeply moved and greatly troubled... Then he weeps... Then when He gets to the tomb he is deeply moved again
 - **What were Jesus Emotions?**
 - First: Jesus is not upset over his enemy death:
 - ◆ Remember... He planned this death for God's glory
 - Besides weeping,
 - ◆ there are two words at the end of verse 33 that describe his response:
 - ◆ *“He was deeply moved (Greek enebrimesato) in his spirit*
 - ◆ *and greatly troubled (etarazen).”*

- The first word (“deeply moved”) is used again in verse 38 and three times outside this Gospel.
 - ◆ It is never a word of compassion but a word of rebuke or warning.
- And the other word (“greatly troubled”) signifies being shaken, or agitated.
 - ◆ It’s the same word for the waters in the pool of Bethesda being *stirred up* ([John 5:7](#)).
 - ◆ And it’s the word Jesus will use in [John 14:1](#), “Let not your hearts be *troubled*.”
 - ◆ It’s not positive emotion. Jesus was shaken, and he was upset and disturbed.

▪ **Yes Jesus Felt Sorrow over the pain of those He loved....**

- And Oh how He loves these folks....
- And see how He loves you and me...

▪ **But more importantly He was troubled over the fact that people continued to Question him...**

- They continued to not believe...
- He is saying... what more can I do for you guys to trust me...

➤ **Application:**

- We do not always understand... but we need to trust...
- If we know Him.... He knows best... and we need to believe this

❖ **Jesus Raises Lazarus: Let’s Just Read this: That should be sufficient**

- John 11.39-44³⁹ Jesus 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.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I 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.”⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”⁴⁴ The 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.”

❖ **They had Jesus**

- Do you have Jesus?

❖ **Invitation:**

- John 11:25-26²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

➤ **Do you believe this?**

- The answer to that question means everything....

➤ **Brief warning:**

- Those who believe on Jesus....
- Follow Him...
 - It is not just a little bit, but A LOT clear from the Bible...
 - Just knowing something that is true about God is not enough to know Him...
- True believers of Jesus:
 - Hear His Voice and they follow Him...

➤ **What must we do to be saved?**

- Follow Jesus

- This means you turn from your former ways and believe on the one you are following