

Jesus and Lazarus Jn. 11:1-44

Thesis: To learn from Jesus and Lazarus.

Introduction:

I. Notice a recap of the story.

A. Jesus is told that Lazarus is sick (11:1-16).

1. Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, sent to Jesus to tell Him that Lazarus was sick (11:1-4).
2. Jesus decides to go to Judea to see Lazarus (11:5-16).

B. Jesus tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again (11:17-27).

1. Lazarus had already been dead for four days (11:17).
2. Martha goes out to meet Jesus (11:18-27).
 - a. There were many Jews around Mary and Martha to comfort them (11:18-19).
 - b. When Martha meets Jesus, she tells Him that He could have prevented the death of Lazarus (11:20-22).
 - c. Jesus tells her that Lazarus will rise again (11:23).
 - d. Martha thinks understands what Jesus is talking about (11:24).
 - e. Jesus then tells her that He is “the resurrection and the life” (11:25-26).
 - f. Martha then confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (11:27).

C. Jesus goes to see the tomb where Lazarus was (11:28-37).

D. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (11:38-44).

II. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead so that others would believe in Him (11:38-45).

A. Jesus told them beforehand what He was going to do (11:38-45).

1. He was not hiding anything from them.
 - a. Before Jesus did this miracle, He had indicated what He was going to do.
 - b. Jn. 11:4 - When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
 - c. Jn. 11:41-42 - 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.”
2. Today, we are more apt to believe someone if they tell us what is going to happen before it actually happens.

B. The reason Jesus did miracles was so that others could believe in Him.

1. John records eight miracles of Jesus.
2. These are recorded so that we may believe in Him.
 - a. **Jn. 20:30-31** - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; {31} but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
 - b. **Acts 2:22** - Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—
3. Whether they wanted to admit it or not, there was no one who could deny that Jesus had great power.
 - a. In fact, notice what the Pharisees and the chief priests say about Him.
 - 1) **Jn. 11:46-53** - 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.
 - 2) **Jn. 11:56-57** - Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, “What do you think-- that He will not come to the feast?” {57} Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.
 - b. They knew that Jesus had power from God, yet they refused to believe it.
4. He did miracles so that others could believe in Him.

C. How unfortunate it is when people refuse to obey God, especially when they know what is right.

III. Jesus says that He is “the resurrection and the life” (11:23-26).

A. If we believe in Christ, though we will die on this earth, we will live with Him.

1. Jesus says that we will never die.
2. Of course, Jesus was not talking about physical death.
3. He was speaking of spiritual death.
4. On other occasions, Jesus spoke of the resurrection.
 - a. **Jn. 5:28-29** - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice {29} and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.
 - b. **Jn. 6:39-40** - This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. {40} And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
 - c. **Jn. 6:44** - No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
 - d. **Jn. 11:25** - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

B. Other passages in the Bible speak of the resurrection from the dead.

1. **I Cor. 15:50-57** - Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—{52} in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. {54} So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” {55} “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” {56} The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **I Thes. 4:16** - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

C. The resurrection from the dead is our hope for eternity.

Conclusion: