

## **Belief, Power, and Resurrection**

This will be our final day in John 11.

Today we come to the resurrection of Lazarus.

Jesus has already proclaimed that these circumstances will strengthen the disciple's faith.

He has told Martha that He is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Him will never die!

He wept with Mary, Martha, and all those grieving.

We ended yesterday with a question. Couldn't Jesus have prevented Lazarus' death?

READ 38-39

### **Experience VS. Faith**

Jesus is still grieving when they come to the tomb.

I want to emphasize again that our Lord grieves with us.

Jesus calls for the stone to be removed.

It is moments like this that our faith is tested.

Why?

Because the experience of everyone present, and of ourselves, argues that what Jesus is calling for is foolish.

Experience says that the body of Lazarus, already dead 4 days, has begun to decompose.

Experience says that there is no purpose in removing the stone.

Experience says that Lazarus is dead and nothing will change that!

Experience says that obeying Jesus in this instance is foolish.

Martha, in her very practical way, points out the obvious.

Lazarus has been dead four days. His body stinks.

This reminds me of Peter in the fishing boat. "Lord we have fished all night and caught nothing. Nevertheless, at your Word we will let down the net."

All of us have been here. Experience says something is impossible.

Dead people don't come to life! Fish don't miraculously appear! Virgins don't give birth! 90 year old ladies don't have babies! Seas don't part! Cripples don't just get up and walk! Blind men don't just start seeing!

With God, nothing shall be impossible.

Take away the stone.

LESSON: Experience doesn't limit the power of God.

God can do anything!

So when He says go, go. When He says do, do. When He says wait, wait.

READ v. 40

## **Faith Before Sight**

Notice the order in which Jesus puts these things.

When we believe 1<sup>st</sup>, then we see the glory of God 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Faith comes first.

There is an implication here.

Without faith, we don't see God's glory.

That's what Hebrews 11 points out. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

If we want to see God work in our lives, we must first believe that He can.

Sometimes this means acting on the impossible.

Sometimes this means doing things that make no sense.

Like rolling away a stone from a tomb with a four-day dead body in it.

LESSON: Trust God and you will see Him work in extraordinary ways.

He is at work in you and me even now.

READ vv. 41-42

## **That We May Believe**

Try to picture this scene.

The tomb is opened and I believe a stench spreads from the mouth of the cave.

Why do I believe that?

Because Lazarus is dead! He has been really and truly dead for 4 days!

You don't put live people into tombs!

You don't wrap live people in grave clothes!

Lazarus is dead. He stinks.

As the stench flows from the cave, Jesus lifts His eyes to heaven and prays.

The key is here in v. 42.

“That they may believe.”

Why does God do the impossible? So that we believe!

So that we see the plan and purpose of God unthwarted by time, human frailty, or sin.

The Father always hears Jesus. This is comforting because Jesus is our intercessor.

Even now He stands before the Father on our behalf.

Do we believe in who Jesus is?

LESSON: Believe that prayer works and that Jesus is God.

READ vv. 43-44

## **The Power That Raises The Dead**

Look at the authority with which Jesus speaks.

This is a command.

Lazarus, come forth!

It has been noted by many others that had Jesus not specified that it was “Lazarus” who was to “come forth” every person buried there would have risen.

That is the power of our God!

Four days of death are undone with three words.

v. 44 reminds us once again that Lazarus was dead. Now He is alive!

He was still bound in burial cloth!

“Loose him, and let him go.”

This is the command of our Lord.

Just as the grave couldn't hold Lazarus, it could not hold Jesus.

The same power that bid Lazarus come forth, called Jesus from the grave.

Our Savior is alive!

You and I are bound in the grave clothes of sin. Ephesians declares that we are dead in trespasses and sins.

The call of Jesus Christ has gone out. We can be made alive.

Will you join me in coming to Jesus?

LESSON: The power that raises the dead gives new life to all who believe.

Are you tired of your life? Tired of the things that keep bringing you down? Tired of living without hope, meaning, or purpose?

Come to Jesus.

He will release you from your bonds. He will make you free.

#### TAKEAWAY

Trust God more than experience.

Believe and you will see God work.

Jesus is alive.

New life is ours when we trust in Jesus.