

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Raising of Lazarus, Part 3

Last times...Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus is sick

[v4], [v11], [v14-15]...for the benefit of His disciples/apostles

Jesus arrived at the outskirts of Bethany for private conversations with Martha and Mary

While comforting Martha, [v25-26]

I have the power of God over death

I am the Source of Life

This time...Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

In focus in this section: Jesus, the Father, Lazarus, the Jews

We will be in John 11 again

v35 Jesus wept:

In [v33], Jesus groaned in the spirit when He saw the pain and suffering of Mary...
and the weeping of the “comforters”

And He was troubled

Now, as He walks with all present to Lazarus’ grave, He weeps
He is broken-hearted, but is He weeping with them?

What makes Jesus weep?

The physical death of Lazarus?

Perhaps, in His humanity and for His compassion for Martha and Mary

Yet, [v4]

The 1st death, the wages of sin?

Perhaps, because Ezk 18:4, 23, 32

Yet, He came to conquer death (Gen 3:15; Rom 5:12, 15, 17-21)
and Ps 116:15 (saints: those who believe and are
accounted as righteous)

Luke 19:41...unbelief in Him, for which there is no remedy,
natural or Divine...leading to the 2nd death

Whose unbelief?

Certainly not Martha’s or Mary’s

v36-37 Could not this man:

Rather than addressing/referring to Jesus as “Lord” as did the sisters they are trying to comfort, the Jews from Jerusalem addressed Him as “this man” i.e. He is NOT Lord

Rather than acknowledging His power of God

- over death (twice: widow of Nain’s son and Jairus’ daughter)
- to forgive sin (spiritual healing)

they acknowledge only His miracles of physical healing.

(echoing, perhaps, Martha and Mary in v21 and v32 but not echoing their relationship with Him in v21 and v32)

The physical healing they reference is the healing of the blind...

John 9, the man born blind (in Jerusalem)

That healing ended with unbelief (John 10:24-38) and His departure to Perea

This unbelief of the Jews is one of the Divine purposes of v4...

that some (besides His disciples/apostles and Martha and Mary) might believe

v38 again groaning in himself...cave:

As they continue walking to Lazarus’ grave, again, as in v33,

Jesus groans in His spirit, within Himself...

due to the unbelief present, in spite of all the evidence (words and deeds)

He has provided in 3 years of being in the midst of His people

Now, they arrive at the grave – a cave in the side of the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives with a stone covering the mouth

This is NOT the beggar Lazarus, this is NOT a poor man’s grave

This, along with the many comforters, speaks of the importance of this family

v39-40 Take the stone away:

Not to view the body or to pay His last respects, but for

- v4 (messenger/Martha/Mary and His disciples)
- v11 (His disciples)
- v23, 25-26 (Martha)

To which Martha “objects”, “protests” because Lazarus has been dead and buried for 4 days – decomposition of the body has started

Jesus, undoubtedly with compassion, reminds Martha of what He has said:
v4, v23, and v25-26...that

- He has the power of God over death and is the Source of Life
- she will see the glory of God – resurrection from the dead

Unspoken:

- Where is your faith?
- Oh you of little faith...

What has happened with Martha?

She confessed v22 and v27...

but she has staggered at the promise of God,

she was not strong in the faith but faltered in this trial

Rom 4:17-21

v41-42 took away the stone...Father, I thank Thee:

Those who were instructed by Jesus to take the stone away, perhaps stopped when
Martha “objected”, but now with Jesus probably looking at them,
do as He commanded them

The tomb of Lazarus is open

Then...Jesus prayed – 1st Things 1st

- briefly
- simply

Father...His unique relationship with God the Father

I thank you...it’s always good and proper to open a prayer to God with thanks

that You have heard Me...when?

v33 when He groaned in the Spirit

v38 when He groaned in Himself

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we
know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the
Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings
which cannot be uttered

And I knew that You hear Me always...absolute assurance of an attentive
audience

Martha was not wrong...v22

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that
we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of
need

because of the people which stand by I said it...Jesus is praying “publicly” for the benefit of those present

- His disciples
- Martha and Mary
- the Jews from Jerusalem

that they may believe that You have sent Me...that all may
(have free will to make a choice) believe v4 and v25-26

- His disciples...v15 since they would be the “builders” of the kingdom of God, needing absolute assurance and confidence/faith in Jesus
- Martha and Mary...the depth and the breadth of Martha’s profession in v27
- the Jews from Jerusalem...Who He is – their Messiah

To not believe Him is to not believe the Father...
which is heart-breaking to Father and Son! (v35)

v43-44 had spoken...cried with a loud voice:

After speaking briefly and simply...and publically...with His Father,
Jesus spoke such that all present would hear Him

Jesus called Lazarus by name and...Lazarus was raised from the dead
With His spoken Word, Jesus has the power of God over death,
power over the grave (decomposition)

Lazarus was buried in the Jewish tradition, body bound in sheets and
face wrapped with a “towel”

Jesus says, “Loose him.”

Lazarus was a captive of death, Jesus set him free!

Just as the Messiah was promised to do – set the captives free
Is 61:1-2a and Luke 4:18-21

v45-46 many of the Jews...believed on Him...But some...to the Pharisees:

Some did believe (v4, v15, v25-26, v41-42)...

- His disciples...3rd time they have witnessed Jesus raising the dead
- Martha and Mary...their brother!!!! Their Lord!!!!
- the Jews from Jerusalem (which came to Mary...vs Martha)...all ear and eyewitnesses

What was their response?

Divided, as always, to everything Jesus says and does

Many believed – Who but God has the power over death and the grave?!
They did not believe His words until they saw with their eyes irrefutable
and over-powering evidence
Some went to tattle on Jesus of Nazareth to the Pharisees, His enemies –
they did not believe still!

v47-48 gathered...a council...What do we:

When the religious leaders, the chief priests and Pharisees get the report
from Bethany (just over the hill) that Jesus of Nazareth has raised Lazarus
from the dead, they call an emergency meeting to discuss this new crisis

Huddled together out of the sight of men (but not of God), they readily admit
Jesus has done and continues to do many miracles;
They cannot refute/deny the “physical evidence”
But they do refute/deny the One doing the miracles

What to do?

If we do nothing, all the people will believe in Him, have confidence in, listen to
and follow Him...

- instead of us (envy)
- Rome will take away our place...cushy and privileged (carnal)
- Rome will take away our nation...have a Zero tolerance Policy for
“disturbing the peace” and insurrection against their iron-fisted
authority i.e. this is a political problem that endangers the
existence of the nation
 - At least that is their excuse
 - The spiritual danger is FAR greater – the fury of Rome is
chicken feed compared to the wrath of God

v49-50 Caiaphas:

The high priest scornfully takes charge of the emergency meeting

According to the Law, the High Priest

- was of the line of Aaron
- served until he died

But in these days, the Word of God was NOT their Final Authority

Instead the religious leaders (and there is nothing new under the sun!)

- read “books about the Bible” instead of the Bible
- interpreted the Word of God according to human reasoning
vs allowing the Author to interpret it (Jesus’ teachings)
- taught traditions of man, making the Word of God of none effect
- denied the infallibility, inerrancy, and inspiration of the Word of God,
even though they gave lip service to all that

Caiaphas

- was not of the line of Aaron – a corrupt counterfeit, a pretender,
a usurper
- was high priest that year...
 - served as high priest from 18AD to 36AD
(during Pilate’s governorship)
 - was the highest bidder to the Romans who corrupted/sold the
office in order to hold a tight rein over the people
- had absolutely no hesitation, and great zeal, to kill Jesus
- had no idea how true his words were!

v51-52 prophesied:

Caiaphas, the chief priests, and the Pharisees were not servants of the Lord,
they were servants of the devil...just as Jesus said in John 8:43-47

The Chief among them, unbeknownst to him or his “father”, uttered profound,
prophetic truth

- Jesus will die for the nation
- Jesus will die for all nations...for all sinners, Jew and Gentile
 - as foreshadowed in Gen 22 (Gen 12 in mind, the Messiah will
be a blessing to all nations)
- The Son will be the Father’s Substitute for whosoever will believe
 - John 1:29
 - John 3:14, 16
- The Son will build the kingdom of God
 - Matt 16:18
 - Eph 2:11-17

On display is the Providence of God

Dan 4:17, 25, 32 to the intent that the living may know that the most
High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to
whomsoever he will

Acts 17:26-27a hath made of one blood all nations of men for to
dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath
determined the times before appointed, and the
bounds of their habitation; That they should seek
the Lord

v53 from that day for they took counsel:

This is a pivotal day in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

The council (v47) have attempted to kill Jesus before this time
But on this day, the council plotted/planned with unyielding determination to
murder Jesus...for their benefit

The “march” to the cross starts this day – the day Jesus raised Lazarus from the
dead!

 Irony!

 Demonic!

But in the Providence of God, today is not that day, so...

v54 walked no more openly...continued with His disciples:

Jesus once again leaves where He is not welcomed

He would stay away from Jerusalem...until it was God’s foreordained day.

 The final week of His ministry

 (when the Jews will also want to kill Lazarus...Ch 12:1-3, 9-11)

Jesus goes east/down to the Judean wilderness, where He continued to pour

 His life into His men

Then, he returned to Perea

In the face of a death threat/”contract”, Jesus did not stop – He had work to do!

And we have work to do also!

The destroyer of men's souls very much wants us "silenced"
But we have work to do also

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

2 Tim 1:9-10 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to
our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given
us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by
the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and
hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

John 5:19 As the Father did, so Jesus did

John 9:1-4 Jesus did the work He was sent to do, the work of God the Father

We, the children of God (John 1:12-13), are sent by the Son to do the Father's work

We go...by faith, forward against the gates of hell (Heb 11:8, Matt 16:18)

We show up...by faith

We do...as led and empowered by the Holy Spirit

We give testimony of what the Father did

Then, as the work is done, in the presence of those present

Later, after the work is done, to whom we are His witnesses

The Lord impressed upon my heart: Now is the time to go back to Egypt

The Lord supernaturally provided for me to go

I go...by faith, forward against the gates of hell

I will show up...by faith

With me, thru me, the Father will do what He has ordained to do from before the
foundation of the world

I will bear witness...there

I will come back and bear witness...here

God will be glorified...He did it all, He is doing it all, He will do it all

Each of you have work to do here, where He has sent you

Our hands are on the Father's hands

Let's "work", praising the Father doing the work!