

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS (John 11:1-44)

“Now a certain man was ill ‘, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair whose brother Lazarus was ill. But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it.”

“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go into Judea again.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.’ Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.’ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly , ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

“Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again,’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.’

“When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 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. Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Five Action Steps to a Miracle

1. Denial--"Take away the stone" (John 11:39)

Remove any belief we may have that the miracle is impossible or any barriers we have in our minds, and be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to allow your miracle to happen.

No one and no thing, including myself, has the power to keep my miracle from happening for me.

2. Belief--"Jesus lifted up his eyes." (John 11:41) Jesus lifted his vision. He could not see Lazarus as others did. We can't ask God to lower thinking to our level; we must raise our thinking to God's. This is to see as God sees. We must believe in our miracles, think of them as possible and we as worthy for their fulfillment. We must believe in the power of the Christ within to do all things, and this belief needs to be with feeling as well as with the intellect.

I believe in my miracle happening for me now.

3. Thanks--"Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." (John 11:41)

Thanks giving was a part of daily life in Old Testament times. It is a testimony to our remembered blessings and faith in those to come. If you have the idea, you have the thing. Jesus understood the importance of an idea that was invested with faith. Because an idea is invisible does not make it unavailable; the movement from invisible to manifestation is merely the natural outworking of spiritual law.

Thank you, Father, for the perfect fulfillment of my miracle now.

4. Decree--"Jesus cried with a loud voice." (John 11:43)

The cry could have been a whisper. The volume indicates the power of faith invested in the idea, the life we breathe into it. Speak the Word with power and authority. Declare the Truth about your mirale with unquestioned assurance. Remember that you can do all things through Christ which strengthens you. What seems impossible to man is possible to God. Know that your miracle is possible to God and is even now in your life.

Affirm your personal miracle.

Release--"Unbind him and let him go."

Let go and release any concerns to God. You do not have to worry or "dig up your seed" to see if God knows how to accomplish your miracle. Leave your self and your miracle in God's hands. When we get our hands off of it, God can do his perfect work. Our miracles are not complete until we stop the cause of any problem which might inhibit the complet expression or cause us not to be able to keep our miracles.

I release all concern and fear and let God bring forth my perfect miracle now.