

The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

I. Trusting God's Timing (1-16)

A. Jesus Works on the Divine Timetable (1-6)

1. Jesus is Called to Help by Lazarus' Sisters (1-3)
 - a. Lazarus Becomes Sick (1-2)
 - b. Lazarus' Sisters Call for Jesus (3)
2. Jesus Tarries Because of Love and Glory (4-6)
 - a. Jesus Claims the Sickness is for God's glory (4)
 - b. Jesus Tarries Because He Loves them (5-6)

B. Jesus' Disciples Must Trust Him (7-16)

1. The Disciples Fear Jesus' Return to Judea (7-10)
 - a. The Disciples Fear the Pharisees' wrath (7-8)
 - i. Jesus Desires to Return to Judea for Lazarus(7)
 - ii. Jesus' Disciples remind him of the Danger
 - b. The Disciples Must Do God's Work On His Time (9-10)
 - i. Jesus Tells them they must Work regardless of the danger (9)
 - Ancient people could only work during the daylight hours
 - There were no lights other than lamplight by which to work.
 - Therefore work must be done during the day
 - Even if there is danger, they must work as God gives them opportunity and on his time
 - ii. Jesus Tells them they cannot work in the dark (10)
 - There is coming a time when they won't be able to work
 - They can only work when God gives opportunity
2. The Disciples Misunderstand Jesus' Mission (11-13)
 - a. Jesus States His Mission to Awaken Lazarus (11)
 - i. He says that Lazarus is sleeping
 - ii. He says He is going to wake him up
 - b. The Disciples Attempt to Convince Jesus not to go (12-13)
 - i. They tell him Lazarus will be alright if he is sleeping
 - ii. They don't want Jesus to go back into danger
 - iii. They don't think Lazarus or his family truly need Jesus (13)
3. The Disciples Decide to Follow Jesus to Death (14-16)
 - a. Jesus Reveals Lazarus' Death (14)
 - b. Lazarus' Death will add to their faith (15)
 - i. Jesus is glad he wasn't there to save Lazarus
 - ii. Jesus is glad because their faith will be increased
 - c. The Disciples Agree to Follow Christ (16)
 - i. Thomas speaks for the group

- ii. Thomas says they will go and die with him
- iii. They trust in Christ's Word

II. Trusting The Person of Christ (17-27)

A. Lazarus is Already Dead and buried (17-19)

1. Lazarus was dead for four days (17-18)

- a. Jesus was a day's journey from Bethany
- b. The messengers took a day to get to Jesus
- c. Jesus tarried for two days
- d. Jesus took a day to get to Bethany

2. Lazarus must have died shortly after the messengers left Bethany

B. Jesus Corrects Martha's Misunderstandings (20-24)

1. Martha Alone Ran to Meet Jesus (20)

- a. She went out to meet him
- b. Mary stayed in the House

2. Martha Believes in the Midst of Suffering and Doubt (21-22)

- a. Martha believes Jesus could have saved Lazarus (21)
 - i. This may not necessarily be a rebuke of Jesus but it could be a statement of faith
 - ii. She believes He could have helped Lazarus
 - iii. She believes since Death has already occurred, there is nothing more that can be done
 - iv. Death is an insurmountable enemy to Martha
- b. Martha believes in the Midst of her suffering (22)
 - i. Even though Lazarus is dead she still believes in Christ
 - ii. She still proclaims he is the Messiah
 - iii. She still did not expect Lazarus to be raised from the dead – v. 39 shows she didn't

3. Martha Misunderstands Jesus' Authority (23-24)

- a. Jesus assures her that Lazarus will rise again (23)
- b. Martha believes Lazarus will rise at the end of history (24)
- c. She doesn't understand that Jesus himself is life

C. Jesus Shifts Martha's Faith to Himself (25-27)

1. Jesus Moves her faith from an Event to Himself (25-26)

- a. Jesus claims that he is the resurrection
 - i. Instead of life at the end of history Martha and Lazarus may have life now in relationship with Jesus
 - ii. Jesus gives hope to Martha and Lazarus
 - Everyone who dies (Lazarus) will live
 - Everyone who lives (Martha) will not die

b. Jesus asks if Martha Believes

2. Martha Places her Faith in Jesus Himself (27)

- a. She believes Jesus is the Christ sent from God
- b. She trusts in Him as a Person rather than what he might do for her

III. Assurance in the Power of Christ (28-41)

A. Mary Comes to Jesus (28-31)

1. Martha Calls Mary to Come to Jesus (28)
2. Mary Rises Quickly and goes to Him (29)
3. The Jews Follow Mary out (31)
 - a. They thought Mary was distraught and going to the tomb
 - b. They followed her to comfort her
 - c. NOTE: They may have been hired mourners which was common in that day
- B. Jesus is Affected by the Situation (32-38)
 1. Mary is Filled with Doubt and Suffering (32)
 - a. She fell at his feet
 - b. She says Jesus could have saved Lazarus
 - c. She also believes death is an insurmountable enemy
 2. Jesus is Moved by their Suffering (33)
 - a. Jesus saw her and the crowds weeping
 - b. Jesus was moved and troubled
 - i. There is great debate about exactly what Jesus was feeling at this point and why.
 - ii. The word used to describe him is almost always used for indignation or annoyance.
 - iii. Jesus may have been upset that all the people doubted and questioned him
 - iv. Jesus may have been upset at the ravages death plagued on the people
 - v. Jesus may have been suffering with the people over Lazarus' demise
 3. Jesus is Taken to Lazarus' Tomb (34)
 4. Jesus' Grief is Displayed (35-36)
 - a. The people suppose it is for his love for Lazarus
 - b. Yet they are not sure
 5. Jesus' Power is Questioned (37)
 - a. They wonder if Jesus could have saved him
 - b. They have heard of Jesus' many miracles

NOTE: Up to now we have seen that everyone supposes Jesus could have stopped death before it happened, but none believe that Jesus can do anything now that death has taken hold. For them, death is to great an enemy for Jesus to conquer
 6. Jesus is Moved again at the Tomb (38)
- C. Jesus Reassures Martha's Faith (39-40)
 1. Martha is still unsure of Jesus' Power (39)
 - a. Jesus commands the stone be removed from the tomb
 - b. Martha objects because Lazarus is definitely decomposing by now
 - b. She doesn't believe anything can be done
 2. Jesus Reassures Martha's Uncertainty (40)
 - a. Jesus reminds her of his promise
 - b. Jesus reminds her that her faith will see God's glory (

IV. Experiencing the Power of Jesus (41-44)

A. Jesus Thanks His Father (41-42)

1. Jesus thanks the Father for hearing Him
2. Jesus prays for the people's behalf
3. Jesus is concerned with their faith
4. Jesus wants them to believe

B. Jesus Commands Lazarus Back from the Dead (43-44)

1. He commands Lazarus to come forth (43)
2. Lazarus comes out of the tomb still wrapped in grave clothes
3. Jesus commands that he be unbound and freed

C. Jesus provides a perfect Picture of the New Birth

D. Those born of Christ's power are raised from the dead to new life