



LIFE AND RESURRECTION

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

MARCH 29, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING 11:1-45 (ESV)

1 ¶ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?”

9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

11 After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”

12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

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13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

17 ¶ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

“25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.””

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, **“The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”**

29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

31 “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.”

32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 ¶ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.

**34 And he said, “Where have you laid him?”
They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”**

35 Jesus wept.

36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

37 But some of them said, **“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”**

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

39 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.”**

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come out.”**

44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **“Unbind him, and let him go.”**

45 ¶ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,” (Joh 11:1-45 ESV)

LIFE AND RESURRECTION

**Minister: THESE ARE THE INSPIRED WORDS OF
GOD**

**All believers: THANK YOU JESUS FOR BEING
THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

All believers: AMEN

Most of us have read and heard about the resurrection of Lazarus many times whether in our private studies, at church or at funerals.

What opportunity did Jesus see when he heard about the death of Lazarus?

This is what we are going to look at today during the sermon.

There are seven signs in the Gospel of John that shows us that Jesus is the incarnate son of God.

Let us see what they are.

SEVEN SIGNS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (FROM [HTTP://WWW.AHEARTFORGOD.ORG](http://www.aheartforgod.org))

Water Turned to Wine ([John 2:1-11](#))

**2. Healing of the (Nobleman's) Son Near Death
([John 4:46-54](#))**

3. Healing of the Lame Man at the Pool ([John 5:1-17](#))

4. Feeding of the Five Thousand ([John 6:1-15](#))

5. Walking on the Water ([John 6:16-21](#))

6. Healing of the Man Born Blind ([John 9:1-41](#))

7. Raising of Lazarus from the Dead ([John 11:1-47](#))

WHY THE SIGNS?

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (Joh 20:30-31 ESV)

The most important sign of them all is the last one.

Let us look at what opportunity Jesus saw as a result of the death of his very dear friend Lazarus whom he loved.

- **“But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”” (Joh 11:4 ESV)**

In Lazarus death, Jesus knew that God would be glorified and that “he” would be glorified.

When we stop to think about what Jesus did, it is amazing not only for Lazarus and his family but for all of us.

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In this short passage of Scripture, we see the reactions of both believers and unbelievers.

We also see how Jesus revealed who he was and how some of the people came to believe.

As in the other miracles that Jesus did, people first saw his miracles from a physical point of view not recognizing who Jesus was and what he was capable of doing.

Again, it’s very important to understand that when we recognize who Jesus is—the incarnate and eternal Son of God, both divine and human in his one person we are enabled to have a relationship with God the Father and Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

We can approach God the Father united to Jesus by the Holy Spirit as Abba, a term of

endearment which means “Dad ’ as the apostle Paul tells us in the epistle to the Romans. God the Father is Holy. In John 17:11, before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed and called God the Father, “**Holy Father**”.

Strong Concordance tells us the following about the word “**holy**”, “**its highest application is to God himself, in his purity, majesty and glory. {Lu 1:49 Joh 17:11 Re 4:8}**”. God is completely different from us because he is Spirit yet he is so close and so loving that in Christ we can approach him as Abba! In Christ, we approach him in reverence, adoration and worship knowing his loving and caring disposition towards us. What a privilege!

The apostles at first had difficulty understanding that Lazarus was really dead. Jesus had to make that very clear to them.

He waited 4 days for them to go to resurrect Lazarus. In the belief system of the Jews, they thought that the spirit of man would hover around the body of the deceased for 3 days and then leave.

Jesus waited for 4 days when the body of Lazarus was actually beginning to decompose.

Jesus was obviously very close to this family. He had a special relationship with Lazarus and obviously a very special relationship with his two sisters, Martha and Mary. In fact, in chapter 12 of the Gospel of John, it is the same Mary who anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. She went all out and took a pound of very expensive ointment made from pure nard to do this. This ointment was worth 300 denarii which was the equivalent of 300 days of a labourer’s wages – an astronomical sum!

Jesus did something that everyone thought was absolutely impossible.

We can imagine ourselves at the scene. We would have reacted like many of these people. Lazarus was completely dead. Even Martha at that particular time acknowledged that her brother would be resurrected on the day of judgment but she never thought that she would see him again full of life so shortly.

Jesus revealed himself to Mary as being “**the resurrection and the life**”.

Being the resurrection and the life is more than an action. It is who he is! Being the life, he is able to give life. Being the resurrection, he is able to resurrect people from the dead!

This is of supreme importance to understand and believe.

OUR PHYSICAL LIFE IS TRANSITORY, VERY SHORT

“13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” (Jas 4:13-14 ESV)

The world lives in the present crisis of Covid-19 which makes us very aware of the fragility of our own life.

Thousands of people are being infected by “an invisible enemy” which makes us either sick and/or causes death.

As we grow older, we realize how short life is. My wife and I have been married for close to 49 years now. Those years went by so quickly. We both realize that we will not live forever and one day, death will have the last word in our physical life.

Yet, death does not really have the last word. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

In the face of death, we see the compassionate and loving reaction of Jesus following the death of his dear friend. We see his compassion toward Martha and Mary. We see in this passage of Scripture the true humanity of Jesus.

When we see Jesus, we see how humanity should be and will be in Christ.

Jesus our Lord, just like God the Father, our Holy Dad, is full of compassion for us. Living as a human being, Jesus fully understood the pain of losing a dear friend.

The story does not end here. Jesus proves that he is really the Resurrection and the Life.

He goes to the tomb and in a loud voice, he calls Lazarus out the tomb.

Before calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus wept. This work **wept** is only found once in the Bible.

The Pulpit Commentary says the following,

THE PULPIT COMMENTARY

- ***Verse 35. - Jesus wept. The shortest verse, but one of the most suggestive in the entire Scripture. The great wrath against death is subdued now into tears of love, of sympathy, and of deep emotion. Jesus shed tears of sympathetic sorrow. This is in sacred and eternal refutation of the theory which deprives the incarnate Logos of St. John of human heart and spirit. These tears have been for all the ages a grand testimony to the fullness of his humanity, and also a Diving revelation of the very heart of God (see Isaiah 25:8)***. (from <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>)

- **“Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.” (Joh 11:38 ESV)**

As we read these verses, let us remember what is occurring here. Let us remember the theme.

“But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”” (Joh 11:4 ESV)

The word for deeply moved means, **snort (with the notion of coercion springing out of displeasure, anger, indignation, antagonism), express indignant displeasure with some one; I charge sternly.** (From Biblehub.com, Strong's concordance)

HELPS Word-studies

1690 *embrimáomai* (from [1722](#) /en, "engaged in" and *brimaomai*, "to snort") – properly, snort like an angry horse; (literally) "**snort (roar) with rage" (BAGD) which expresses strong indignation, i.e. deep feeling that is moved to sternly admonish** (from biblehub.com)

The greatest enemy of man is sin which leads to death. The apostle Paul tells us, **“The last enemy to be destroyed is death”** 1 Corinthians 15:26).

Jesus came face-to-face to death. His friend Lazarus was dead. Jesus hates sin and

death and their destructive consequences..

Death is an enemy. From quietly sharing in his friends agony over the death of Lazarus as he wept, he was also angry at what sin does – it kills. Were it not for Jesus, death kills forever.

However, death will not go forever because Jesus has power over death as he showed in the physical resurrection of Lazarus and as he showed in his personal death on the cross and his subsequent resurrection.

As a result of this momentous miracle, we read in verse 45 that many of the Jews believed in him. Others however turn against Jesus and reported him to the Pharisees who decided that they would kill him.

Later on, the chief priests not only devised a plan to kill Jesus but to also to kill the evidence of Jesus' miracle, killing Lazarus (John 12:10- 11).

The only source of life is Jesus. He is "the life". There is no other hope beyond the grave apart from him who is the resurrection.

To have hope beyond the grave, we must believe in God the Father and in Jesus. Jesus said,

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” (Joh 14:1 ESV)

“10 ¶ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (Ro 8:10-11 ESV)

In John 11, the apostle writing about the dramatic resurrection of Lazarus shows us Lazarus' death was for the glory of God, so that the son of God may be glorified also!

Through faith, we have a relationship with the person of Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life who lives in us. He is our life

As God's people, whether we live or die, in Jesus our hope for eternity never dies.

Furthermore, because Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, we have hope not only for ourselves but for all others who have or who will receive Jesus through faith when he reveals himself to them just as he has to us to the glory of God the Father and of Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray!