

Remnant Life Church
May 16, 2021
“Supernatural: The Work of Jesus
The Raising of Lazarus”
Part 4
John 11:38-44

We know that there was purpose and reason behind every action of Jesus

- Even when they don't make sense to us
- Even when we do not understand the why's or the reasons

We have learned that Jesus is always on time, even when the circumstances appear to be saying something else

And we have learned that Mary and Martha, while sisters, were very different

- Martha, like many Christians, focused on what she was doing
- Mary was more concerned about just being with Jesus
- Many Christians think they can earn or “do” themselves into a place of spiritual maturity
- But in reality, it is not about what you do but the condition of your heart, and how you respond to the trials and circumstances of life, that reveal the depth of your relationship with Jesus

Martha was the busy one who was always active and doing for both God and others

Mary was content to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him, be close to Him, and worship Him

- Neither was wrong, but Jesus said that one way was better
- It is a matter of priority
 - Are your works the most important aspect of your Christianity or does your relationship with Jesus determine your actions?
- Again, too many Christians believe the most important thing is what THEY do instead of what has been done for them

So, Jesus has now arrived at the burial place of Lazarus

Just prior to Jesus approaching the mouth of the cave-tomb, we see 3 very intense emotions

- The Greek word to describe Jesus' *groaning* (*em-bree-mah-oh-my*) literally means to “snort.” It means to rebuke someone urgently or to be deeply moved.
- The word for *troubled* (*tah-rrrahso*) means “agitated.” It means He was stirred up and disturbed.
- And then the last word, where it says He *wept*, (*dah-kruel*) literally means to “shed tears.”
- The idea here is that Jesus is so agitated and stirred up by what He sees that He begins to physically cry.

The question is what brought this flood of emotion for Jesus and what did it mean?

- Some say He wept for Lazarus.
- Others say that He was very disturbed at the peoples' lack of faith

- Still others say He was moved with compassion because He saw genuine grief and felt their sorrow
- I tend to lean towards a combination of the last two because this whole event is meant to help the people and their faith
- Remember Jesus said He was glad He did not arrive prior to Lazarus' death so that they would believe (11:15)

So, Jesus approaches the tomb and, once again, is groaning in His spirit

We then witness something that Jesus must have been getting used to because it happened so often

- He gave a command, and someone questions Him, someone close to Him
- It is Martha showing, yet again, what is most important to her – the natural and practical things
 - He first tells them to take the stone away (11:39)
 - Martha then reminds Jesus that after 4 days Lazarus' body would have begun to decay and the millions of bacteria in the body would have begun to smell bad (11:39)
 - Jesus then must tell them once again what the focus of this time should be (11:40)
 - Not the physicality of the situation
 - But the importance of belief in the power of God

As Jesus gets ready to call Lazarus, we must note something that is very important and very consistent in the life and ministry of Jesus

- He prays first, and reconnects with His Father (11:41-42)
- Jesus did this often, most often by Himself
- He did not rush in without the Father being with Him – NOT EVEN JESUS!

He then called out in a loud voice (11:43)

- The Bible records very few circumstances when Jesus raised His voice
- Certainly, never because He had lost control of His emotions
 - The word most often used in these types of situations is rebuked
 - He rebuked the wind and waves in [Matt 8:26](#)
 - He rebuked the demon in possession of the boy in [Matt 17:18](#)
 - He rebuked satan in Peter in [Mark 8:33](#)
 - And He rebuked the disciples in [Mark 16:14](#) when He appeared after the resurrection for their lack of faith
- But this does not mean he shouted
 - Most of the intensity we assign to Jesus' words are due to the punctuation in the particular variation we are reading
 - Jesus had very little reason to raise His voice
 - Although I have to believe He probably felt like it from time to time
- Why is this a point to be aware of?
 - Because we must be careful not to allow our emotions to become the barometer of God's work
 - Loud does not mean spiritual

- And losing control of your actions is not a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit
- It is actually just the reverse
- But this is one of the few times when we know for sure that Jesus got a little bit loud
 - The original Greek translates to He shouted
 - Why?
 - Certainly not for Lazarus' sake
 - He was dead until Jesus commanded him to come out
 - Not out of a need to be impressive
 - You often see this in charismatic services with healing
 - Unnecessary – God is not hard of hearing
 - He did it for all the people who were there so that no one would be unclear as to what had happened, and why
 - One other side-note, why did Jesus call Lazarus by name
 - How many people named Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, had just died?
 - No one knows for certain, but I know what I believe
 - The power of the spoken word of Jesus was beyond anything we can know and it cannot be contained
 - If Jesus had just said “come out,” I believe that every tomb in Bethany, Jerusalem, and likely around the world would have had someone walking out of it
 - When Lazarus came out, whole and well, Jesus told the people to set him free
- Because of this event and the fame it created we know that the Pharisees under the leadership of Caiaphas the high priest began to plot how to kill both Jesus and Lazarus

What has been the primary focus of this famous account in the Scripture?

- Nothing is too great for God
- There is a plan and purpose to everything of God's will
 - This is true not only for the things of great measure
 - But also for the details of your life
- Finally, it is faith and faith alone that keeps our lives in the things of the Spirit and not the flesh

Jesus was involved in the resurrection back to life of only 4 people in His three years of ministry on earth

1. The widow woman's son in the village of Nain ([Luke 7:15](#))
2. The daughter of Jairus ([Mark 5:42](#))
3. Lazarus ([John 11](#))
4. Himself

Are you living today in the power of God?

- Not necessarily to perform physical miracles
- But to be a part of the miracles of love, kindness, patience, and demonstrating the person of Jesus Christ every day

A miracle does not need to be spectacular – just filled with faith in God and ready to give Him and Him alone all the glory