

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: John – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: John 11:1-57 – Lazarus was 4 days dead; Jesus brought him back to life!

Today's Message:

"Dead Man Walking"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, Jesus said He was *"the good shepherd"* who gave His life for the sheep. And we read one of the greatest passages on the eternal security of the believer and the deity of Jesus Christ! Today, we will learn from a story that we can all relate to. Martha and Mary will tell Jesus that He is 4 days **LATE!** And He will say that He is right on schedule for the **GLORY** of God. Now there are times when we think that God is **NOT** on the right schedule – especially when it relates to our loved ones or something very personal to us. God has help for you as usual if you will hear Him. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text John 11:1-57

#1. The Problem (1-37) – Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, was sick and **CLOSE** to death.

1. The seventh and final **MIRACLE** of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John.
 - **John 20:31** – *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ...*
 - The 7 miracles of John's Gospel
 - 1) *The wedding in Cana* – salvation by the spoken word (wine is a type of blood).
 - 2) *The healing of the Nobleman's son* – salvation by faith alone.
 - 3) *The healing of a paralyzed man* – salvation by grace without human works.
 - 4) *The feeding of the multitudes* – salvation brings responsibility.
 - 5) *The walking on the water* – salvation brings stability and peace.
 - 6) *The healing of the blind man* – salvation brings sight and a powerful witness.
 - 7) *The raising of Lazarus* – salvation brings new life – death unto life.
2. There is an account of **ANOTHER** Lazarus in the Gospels – only 2 in the entire Bible.
 - **Luke 16:19-30** – *There was a certain rich man... was a certain beggar named Lazarus...*
 - **Luke 16:31** – *And he said unto them, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, NEITHER WILL THEY BE PERSUADED, though one rose from the dead.*
3. The sisters of Lazarus were desperate and sent for Jesus to come to **HEAL** him.
 - **Psalm 12:1** – *Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail...*
 - **John 4:49** – *The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.*
4. Jesus chose to abide another **TWO** days in the same place.
 - **Mark 4:38** – *And he was in the... ship... asleep... Master, carest thou not that we perish?*
 - **Mark 6:48** – *And he saw them toiling in rowing... he cometh... walking upon the sea...*

Important Note

Two accounts of real people named Lazarus relate to men that died!

Consider this...

The nobleman was desperate for Jesus to come to heal his son... Jesus spoke the word and the son was instantly healed!

When he heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place...

What do you do when you KNOW God is ABLE to do anything and yet you are in a very desperate situation which does not appear that God is helping. This is what Martha and Mary were feeling...

Question

Have you ever been mad at God? Are you mad at Him now? **Do you blame Him** for not helping you or a loved one?

Question

Have you ever thought how much **your sin and pain** must grieve God?

5. The sisters of Lazarus were **DISAPPOINTED** that Jesus had not come soon enough.
 - **John 11:21** – Then said Martha... **Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.**
 - **John 11:32** – Then when Mary... **Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.**
 - Did Martha and Mary just blame God for the death of their brother?
6. Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** (This is #5 of 7 “I AM” statements!)
 - **John 11:25** – ... he that believeth in me, **though he were dead, yet shall he live.**
 - Remember, Lazarus is going to be a picture of you, Christian! Amen.
7. Jesus **WEPT**.
 - **Gen 6:6** – And it repented the LORD... and it **GRIEVED him at his heart.**
 - **Isa 53:3** – He is despised... rejected of men; a man of sorrows... **acquainted with GRIEF...**
 - **Luke 22:44** – And **being in an agony he prayed... sweat was as... great drops of blood...**
 - **Eph 4:30** – And **GRIEVE not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed...**

#2. The Power (38-45) – Lazarus died for God’s **GLORY** – for Jesus to be glorified!

8. Lazarus was now **FOUR** days dead – his body was decomposing and it stinketh!
 - **Jonah 1:17** – ... And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS.**
 - **Matthew 12:40** – For as Jonas was **THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS** in the whale’s belly;
 - **Eph 2:1** – And **you hath he quickened, who were DEAD in trespasses and sins;**
9. Jesus spoke the **WORD**, and a dead man walked out of the grave! Amen. Amen.
 - **Genesis 1:3** – And God said, **LET there be light: and there was light.**
 - **Psalms 33:9** – For **he spake, and it was DONE;** he commanded, and it stood fast.
 - **Heb 1:3** – Who being the brightness... upholding all things **by the word of his POWER...**
 - **Heb 4:12** – For **the word of God is quick, and POWERFUL, and sharper than any...**
 - **Heb 11:3** – Through faith we understand... **worlds were framed by the word of God...**
 - **2Pet 3:7** – But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same word are kept...**

Important Note

It has been said... if Jesus had not said Lazarus’ name then all dead would have risen!

#3. The Predicament (46-57) – the religious leaders were in quite a **DILEMMA!**

Important Note

The other 3 Gospel accounts have a parable of a certain householder who let out his property to husbandmen who ultimately killed his son (the heir) out of greed and lust for power. **Mt 21:28; Mk 12:7; Lk 20:14**

10. The Jewish leaders called a council to discuss their urgent “**JESUS**” problem!

- **John 11:47** – Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, **What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.**
- **John 11:48** – If we let him thus alone, **ALL MEN WILL BELIEVE ON HIM: and the Romans shall come and take away both OUR PLACE and nation.**

Important Note

This was not good for their business!

11. A plan, led by Caiphas the high priest, was concocted to put Jesus Christ to **DEATH**.

- **John 11:53** – Then from that day forth they took counsel together... to put him to death.
- **John 11:56** – Then sought they for Jesus, and spake... What think ye... he will not come...
- **John 11:57** – Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment...

... if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

The chapter closes with the Jewish leaders now seeking to find, take, and kill the Lord Jesus Christ. The remainder of the book will be the last week of Jesus’ life and his death, burial, and resurrection. He has clearly demonstrated to all He is the Christ – God in a human body! And He will now prepare for His **TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** into Jerusalem where the people will go from praising to crucifying Him in a few days. What will you do for this man who is Jesus the Christ? How will you live? Does the love of Christ constrain you? Does His compassion and care move you? Repent today and worship Him...