

Miracles and the Messiah- Miracle 7-John 11

- Quick review of lesson from last week and purpose of this series. Also tease the next series a little.
- With John's purpose being to prove that Jesus is God. How did healing a man born blind prove Jesus is God?
 - Remember through the lesson we learned there is more than one way to be blind. We can be spiritually blind, especially to our sin. Jesus came into the world to open our eyes so that we could see our need for Him to take away our sin and restore the relationship with Him.
- **Intro story or illustration**
 - If you found out your best friend was deathly ill. Like I'm talking hours to days to live, and you knew you could help them get better and they'd live, what would you do? You'd go to help them right? I would say even if I couldn't do anything to help them, if I knew my best friend had a short time to live you can bet I'd do everything in my power to get to where they are as fast as I could.
 - Today though, we're going to look at a time where Jesus was told one of His best friends was really sick, and Jesus stayed where He was for 2 extra days before He even got up to leave.
 - Now, of course Jesus had a reason for this, He knew what He was doing, but we're going to discuss this final miracle that John records in His Gospel, and see how it proves Jesus is God.
- We'll be in John 11:1-44
- As we go through today's lesson I want you to consider a few questions
 - How does this miracle prove Jesus is God?
 - Why do you think Jesus waited to come see Lazarus?
 - What does Jesus mean when He says I am the resurrection and the life?
- **Have someone read John 11:1-44**
- **What happened? What did Jesus do?**

- **Retell the story**

- Jesus and His disciples get word that His friend Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, is sick.
- His sisters had sent word to Him, knowing and hoping that He would come to heal their brother.
- They appeal to His love for Lazarus in begging Him to come.
 - Charis does something like this when she wants me to do something for her. Like she'll ask me to get her apple juice and say I love you daddy do you love me? Of course I'll tell her I do and then she'll say can you get me some apple juice.
- Jesus says that "this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He said this? Why do you think He would respond this way?**
- Now John reassures us that Jesus loves Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but yet Jesus chooses to stay where He was for two more days.
- **Why do you think Jesus waited two days before going to Bethany where Lazarus and his sisters were?**
- After two days Jesus tells His disciples let's go to Judea. They question this by saying didn't they just try to kill you there? Now you want to go back?
- Jesus then tells them Lazarus sleeps so I must go wake him.
- The disciples still thinking Lazarus is just sick tell Jesus sleep is the best thing for him. If he's sleeping he'll get better.
- Jesus has to tell them plainly, He's dead. He also says it's good for you that I wasn't there to heal him because now you will believe.
- So they leave to go to Bethany. And when they get there Lazarus has been dead and in the tomb for 4 days.
- They already had the funeral.
- Martha came to greet Jesus and tells Him that if He had been there Lazarus wouldn't have died. And she shows great faith in Jesus by saying that whatever He asks of God God gives Him.
- Jesus tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again, but she responds by saying, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."
- **Do you think she understood what Jesus said and was about to do? Why or why not?**
- Jesus then says that He is the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?
- **What do you think He meant by this?**

- She says she believes.
 - Jesus then moves on and now Mary comes to them weeping.
 - Again Mary says essentially the same thing Martha did.
 - And Jesus, seeing Mary crying, seeing the crowd crying, asks where they laid Lazarus. And then He weeps.
 - **Why did Jesus cry?**
 - Jesus asks them to take away the stone in front of the tomb. They protest because of course Lazarus has been dead for 4 days and the body would already smell.
 - Jesus prays an awesome prayer, and calls in to Lazarus to come out.
 - Lazarus does, and they remove his grave clothes.
 - **How would you have reacted in this situation?**
- **How does this miracle prove Jesus is God?**
 - Only God has the power over life and death. Jesus waiting several days to come until after Lazarus had been dead and buried for 4 days left no doubt that he was dead. There could be no question that he was dead and that Jesus raised him. There is a Jewish belief that grief reaches its height on the third day. For three days the spirit hovers about the tomb, if perchance it may return to the body. But when it sees the fashion of the countenance changed, it retires and abandons the body.
 - Jesus also outright says that He is the resurrection and the life. Jesus boldly challenged Martha to trust that He was the source of eternal life. Jesus presented Himself as the champion over death. Which is essentially a claim to be God.

Take away from this lesson-

Jesus shows He is God through raising Lazarus from the dead by first waiting to come and help until Lazarus was clearly dead. This shows that only He, who is God, could have raised Him from the dead. But also, the miracle was an illustration of the power Jesus has to also give those of us who follow Him eternal life.