

•1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. John 12:1-2

•9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. John 12:9-11

•That meal must have been amazing.

• I think that anytime a person comes back from the dead we should have a party!

•Good friends. Good food. Can you imagine the conversation around the table? Simon the Leper, or rather Simon the Ex-leper. Lazarus reclining at the table. And of course Jesus and the Twelve.

•I can imagine Simon saying, "You cannot imagine what it was like! I saw the scabs fall off my hand! My fingers grew back in place! I reached up, and my eyebrows were there. I was healed!"

•Then perhaps Lazarus interrupted, saying, "Simon, that was nothing! I mean, that must have been great, but let me tell you what it was like for me. Hey, I died! I was gone four earth days. I went to Paradise. Boy, I saw all the biggies - Abraham, Moses, David.

•But I will tell you, the most amazing thing I saw was when I came back and walked out of that tomb. You should have seen Peter's face!!!

Lazarus had become Jesus' star witness.

•I find that amazing because as I read the Gospels, I cannot find anything outstanding about Lazarus. It seems he never said anything worth recording, and perhaps he never did anything worth recording. Yet he ended up being one of the great witnesses for Christ. Why?

•The answer is not in what Lazarus did for Jesus. It is in what Jesus did for Lazarus.

•Has your life has been so changed that the only EXPLANATION is the power of Christ?

• In the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead you'll notice three important principles:

Mary and Martha had a close relationship with Jesus before the crisis arose.

•When Jesus came to town He stayed at their home and ate at their table.

•They were givers, not takers. You can't refuse to give God a minute of your time, an ounce of your energy, or a penny of your money, then when trouble comes, say, "Lord, why did You let this happen?"

•You have NO right to make a withdrawal where HAVE NOT made a deposit!

Having a relationship with Jesus doesn't mean you won't have trouble.

•But it does mean that you can go to Him with confidence in times of trouble.

•*Many are the afflictions....*

When you bring Jesus into the situation He will change it.

•Lazarus was already dead and buried by the time Jesus got there.

•They brought Him in with a letter. But, it got worse before it got better.

•V.17 4 days Dead- Decayed- There was NO hope!

•Jesus wanted to wait until everyone knew that it was over.

•V.28-29

•Didn't wash or change clothes. Ate round bread, lentils, boiled eggs.

•20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now 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 of 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 at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:20-26

"Do you believe this?"

DO YOU HAVE A RESERVATION?

•A Doubt

•An Appointment!

•When everyone else was filled with reservation God was telling Lazarus-
YOU HAVE A RESERVATION.

•If God only met your expectations He'd never have a chance to exceed them.

• You wanted a healing but God had a resurrection in mind.

•Don't:

•**Make reservations for more people than you really need.**

•**Be wishy-washy about the time.**

•3-5???

•**When you have a RESERVATION you know when you have to leave!**

•**My reservation opens doors!**

•The size of the stone is just an indicator of the size of the miracle that's behind it!

•**Reservation held under a name.**

•**Party of... Who is He calling today.**

•**Plan ahead. Call in advance to let them know you're coming.**

•So that the Son of God might be glorified... More than Lazarus.

•Your pain is producing a GREATER purpose than you could ever imagine.

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whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. John 12:9-11

- Hell pays attention to someone who was dead but got back up!
- From that day forward the attack was never about Lazarus but the Christ who saved him.
- We should want something to happen in ours lives that turn people to Jesus!
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