

### 3-13-2024 – Lazarus – a Resurrection & a Conspiracy

**Intro:** Jesus, beloved or hated? Believer or doubter? Follower or Conspirator?

There is no middle ground. *Jesus: “The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters.”* – **Matt. 12:30** Who are you?

#### John’s Gospel

John 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> know Pharisees upset w/Jesus. Healed on Sabbath, man carried mat.

<sup>16</sup> So, b/c Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal w/ God.”

Jesus explained: God directs what He does. Even greater things coming.

“Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” **John 5:25**

John 6-7 show how people were divided over Jesus.

Some believed, others did not. Some said Messiah (miracles)/ others, demon

**John 7** - He goes from Galilee to Judea for the Festival of Tabernacles. <sup>12</sup> Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.”

... [S]ome of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? <sup>26</sup> Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

**John 11** – <sup>1-2</sup> A man by the name of Lazarus was sick in the village of Bethany. He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. This was the same Mary who later poured perfume on the Lord's head and wiped his feet with her hair. <sup>3</sup> The sisters sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick.

<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said, “His sickness won't end in death. It will bring glory to God and his Son.” <sup>5</sup> Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. <sup>6</sup> But he stayed where he was for two more days. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “Now we will go back to Judea.” <sup>8</sup> “Teacher,” they said, “the people there want to stone you to death! Why do you want to go back?” – **John 11:1-8**

1 - **Jesus knows** what is going to happen. Our lives... actions... no surprise.

2 - When it feels like God isn't answering/acting... **get ready** – God's Glorified!

3 - It's **b/c He loves them** that He delayed. Our faith matters to Him.

Trust God in delays. **His delay is not a denial.** Don't assume: doesn't care

2 days later, Time is right. Jesus knows “Lazarus has fallen asleep.” Disciples: He’ll get better.

<sup>14</sup>So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>And for your sakes, ***I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe.*** Come, let’s go see him.”

<sup>16</sup>Thomas said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”

**2 more things: (4)** Often, things **happen** in our lives **to increase our faith.**

In our problems is where faith is built... we understand God’s power.

Too often, we claim victories -- we did it -- we don’t need God.

Have moments to remind us – **we need Him.** And God is Good.  
Some think Christians **won’t have illness**, have problems. Wrong.

\*\*Lazarus’s **sickness** wasn’t punishment. **Spiritual purpose.**

**(5) Thomas isn’t just a doubter.**

Thomas is a man of courage. . . put His life on the line to follow Jesus

We all can be **confident today**, have **uncertainty tomorrow.**

Yes, He doubted the impossible could happen, but don’t we?

We think life won’t change... unlovable. Broken. Addict. Health.

**Return to this story - God changes things. Anything’s possible!**

**Verses 17-32 – Martha, then Mary, go meet Jesus.**

They both say: “*Lord, if only you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.*”

**Translate:** Lord, you let me down. Lord, U caused my pain. This is your fault.

If you would have listened to me, this wouldn’t have happened.

Martha has **frustration & faith.** Hadn’t gone her way, but she hadn’t lost all hope.

“*Even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.*” (**Jn. 11:22**).

Martha is like man who told Jesus: “I do believe; help my unbelief!” (**Mk 9:24**)

► **(6)** We can **give** our **doubts/anger** to God... He’s big enough/wants build faith.

Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” - **John 11:25-26** **Martha - Do you believe in Me?**

Resurrection isn’t just an event; the resurrection is a person!

Even tho she didn’t know the future, she trusted Jesus. You’re Messiah.

► **(7)** When our world is rocked by grief, hang onto conviction.

That day will come. Need Something – He is resurrection.

Mary goes to meet Jesus. She fell at His feet, crying. Everyone else, too.

**John 11:35** - **Jesus Wept**. He knows what He's about to do ... but **cries w/ her**.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.” **Heb.4:15**

When we cry, He cries. Not some distant, unfeeling God.

“You have stored my tears in your bottle and counted each of them.” **Psalm 56:8**

. So sorry that you're going thru this... but you need too. It will be worth it.

**11:35** – Couldn't He who opened eyes of the blind kept this man from dying?

They see His love for Lazarus, but question His power. Why, God? Us, too.

▶ **(8)** God has a reason for everything. He loves us, so we can trust Him

**Some experiences happen to us to build faith in others:** disciples, crowd.

We're connected. How we respond matters.

Witness is strongest in difficult seasons. Paul/jail. Martha/death ...

Jordan Travis. Tim Tebow.

**Jn. 11:38-44** <sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

▶ **(9)** **We can block the amazing things God wants to do in our lives.**

Martha, roll away the stone . . . But . . . we have lots of excuses.

Martha, demonstrate your faith. Take a step. What stone U need to roll?

You'll never know what God has planned until you take step/faith.

Note: Jesus **could've** done **private miracle**... He chose to glorify God. Show us the power of an awesome God who loves us. God w/ Resurrection Power.

**What have you laid in a tomb? Covered up?**

Some believed. Some went to Pharisees. “If he con't, Romans will take our temple & nation.” **Jn 11:53** - <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they plotted to take his life. **YOU?**

Song of the week: “4 Days Late” By Karen Peck & New River