

The Gospel of John Part 58: Faith: From Promise to Resurrection

John 11:38-46



John 11:38-46 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord,

by this time he smells, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the crowd standing around I said this, so that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." 45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

1) Faith Walks In Jesus's Promise. When Jesus commands the stone to be removed, Martha hesitates because she can only see the reality of death. Jesus responds by reminding her of His earlier promise: "If you

believe, you will see the glory of God." Faith begins by walking in obedience to Christ's word, even when the outcome is unclear. The thing standing between the people and a miracle was one act of obedience to Jesus. In the end, the people remove the stone not because they understand what Jesus is about to do, but because they trust Him enough to obey. Genuine faith acts on the promises of Christ before His purposes are fully revealed, believing that His word is trustworthy even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

2) Faith Trusts in Jesus's Work. Before raising Lazarus, Jesus prays publicly to the Father so that the crowd might understand His divine mission. His prayer reveals that everything He does is in perfect unity with the Father's will. Then, with a simple command, Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb. The miracle demonstrates that Jesus possesses authority over death itself. Faith trusts in the work of Christ even when it cannot fully comprehend it. The crowd could not explain how a dead man could live again, but they witnessed the power of God at work through the Son. Faith rests not in human understanding but in the person and work of Jesus. With every promise from Jesus there is a work that He has done to show He is worthy of our trust.

3) Faith Receives Jesus's Gift. After Lazarus emerges from the tomb, Jesus commands, "Unbind him, and let him go." The miracle is not complete until Lazarus is fully restored to life and fellowship. This restoration points beyond the immediate blessing to the greater gift Jesus offers through faith. Lazarus receives physical life, but many in the crowd receive eternal life when they too believed in Jesus. The passage ends with two responses: some receive the gift and believe, while others reject it. Faith receives what Jesus freely gives. Those who walk in His promises, and trust in His work experience not only His blessings in this life, but also in the life to come.