

John 11:1-45 - A Grave Matter

I can only guess at the number of graves I've seen in my decades of officiating at funerals. They included burials in small rural graveyards and in huge military memorial parks. An army sergeant friend assigned to duties at Arlington National Cemetery gave me a personal tour of that sacred burial site. A few decades ago, my wife tried to trace locations of her ancestors buried in Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee. We traipsed across ancient graveyards looking at barely legible headstones and markers. All cemeteries share this—silence broken only by wind and frequent sounds of sorrow and weeping.

One day in Bethany cemetery near Jerusalem, something different happened. An occurrence took place that I've never seen in the many graveyards I've visited. A man commanded a corpse to come alive and walk out of its tomb. The dead body amazingly obeyed. Four-days-dead Lazarus came alive and enjoyed a reunion with his sisters.

That astonishing occurrence provides a preview of a sudden, worldwide event to come. Jesus will command everybody, live or dead, to appear. Some will rise to eternal life with him. Others will meet condemnation. Jesus, the Son of God, will give new life to those who love him and live to please God. What will happen at your grave?

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