

“Loose Him and Let Him Go”

One of the best times for me to talk to and listen to the Lord is around 3-4 a.m. on a daily basis. This is normally either the first or second time that my bladder tells me its time to pee. Once I get up, it usually takes me 10-15 minutes to go back to sleep and during this time often I have a conversation with the Lord.

Last night was no exception. Around 4.a.m.I did my normal routine and when I got back in bed the Lord began to mess with me about the day that Lazarus (his friend) died.

You remember the story – **John 11:32 & following**

While Jesus was away, the brother of Martha and Mary whose name was Lazarus, died When Jesus arrived 4 days later, they met Him and told Him that had he been there, then Lazarus would not have died.

There are many lessons around this whole portion of scripture, some of which will be in a future message, but I want to hone in on one specific portion of this story.

Jesus tells Mary to “take away the stone” from where Lazarus was buried. Her response was in line with everyone’s thinking. Lord, he has been dead for 4 days and by now there will be a **stench**.

Regardless, after Jesus describes how he is the resurrection and the life, Jesus walks to the burial site and with a loud voice cry out “Lazarus, come forth”

Vs 44 then says “he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave cloths. His face was also wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to those around him (His disciples) “Loose him and let him go.”

We have all heard how He claimed “Lazarus”, for had he not mentioned his name, everyone within His voice would have been resurrected from the dead.

Now in my conversation with the Lord at 4.a.m. I wondered why Jesus did not remove his grave cloths Himself, and here-in is where the conversation gets “great”

To backtrack just a bit, let me remind you of somethings that the Lord reminded me of. Remember the story in Luke 19 about the Nobleman who was leaving town for a while (actually, Jesus is talking about Himself leaving earth and leaving behind His talents to be invested by His people in others’ lives)

As the story continues, upon His return, He called His servants to Himself to determine what they had done to invest what they had been given.

The first had received 10 talents and had invested all 10 and upon His return, Jesus now had gained another 10.

“Well done good and faithful servant, now enter into your reward”

The next guy had received 5, invested the 5 and gained another five. “Well done good and faithful servant, also receive your reward, you are now over 5 cities. (Another lesson for another time)

The next guy came and reported to the “Nobleman” – (who is actually Jesus) and he said, “behold here is your pound which I have kept laid up in a **napkin.**”

Side note here beloved – the word Napkin has the Greek meaning of “**sweat band**” or **grave-cloth.**

The guy goes on to say: “for I feared thee, because you are an austere man who takes up where you did not lay down and reaps where you did not sow. Jesus then says that out of your own mouth, will I judge you, take the pound (or talent) given you and give it to another.

Now here comes the “kicker”

You will remember that the Priest in the Old Testament was forbidden to wear any wool in the presence of the Lord God. Why? Because wool speaks of sweat and self-effort and that is forbidden before God. As you have heard me say so many times “God is not interested in what you can do for Him” He is only interested in what He can do for Himself, through you, as a vessel.

There is to be no “sweat” to our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once Lazarus was free from the tomb, the disciples were then commanded by Jesus to “**loose him and set him free**”

Free from what you ask? Anything that causes sweat. Anything that has to do with “self-effort”. Any form of “legalism” that is attached to the believer.

It has become our duty to set those who were “dead” in trespasses and sins, to be set free. Do everything in your power to free every believer to walk in the newness of this new life he now possesses.

Like Lazarus, just because we have been raised from the dead to new life, does not mean that we have automatically shed our rotten grave cloths. However, as in Lazarette’s lesson, he was once alive, but became dead and needed to be resurrected, but carried with him the grave cloths that needed to be removed.

As with so many believers today,” since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and **the sin** (singular which is UNBELIEF) which so easily besets us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us .**Hebrews 12:1**

It becomes the responsibility of the church to free the people of the bondage of “self-effort” and “legalism.”

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