

The Death of Lazarus and Its Purposes

John 11:01-16

1. *Lazarus was sick*

- a. His home was Bethany
- b. His sisters were Mary and Martha

- c. His sisters sent the news of Lazarus' sickness to Jesus

2. *Purpose 1:*

To glorify God and to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God

3. *Purpose 2:*

To show Jesus' great love

4. *Purpose 3:*

To show the necessity for waiting upon God in great crises

5. *Purpose 4:*

To teach the need to grasp opportunity

- a. The disciples protested Jesus' return to Jerusalem: Because of the threat to His life
- b. Jesus reply:
There is a duty to work
- to do what is right,
to grasp the opportunity
- regardless of the danger

6. *Purpose 5:*

To show Jesus' power over death

- a. Jesus called Lazarus "our friend"
- b. Jesus predicted Lazarus would be raised

- 1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
- 2 This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.
- 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."
- 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."
- 5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
- 6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.
- 7 Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."
- 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"
- 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light.
- 10 It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."
- 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

<p>c. The disciples misunderstood</p> <p>d. Jesus said that death is as “sleep”</p> <p>7. Purpose 6: <i>To help strengthen the disciples’ belief</i></p> <p>8. Purpose 7: <i>To stir the disciples’ courage and loyalty</i></p>	<p>12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”</p> <p>13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.</p> <p>14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead,</p> <p>15 And for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”</p> <p>16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”</p>
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Jesus and Martha: A Growth in Faith

John 11: 17–26

1. *The scene was Bethany, a suburb of Jerusalem*

- a. Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days
- b. Friends comforted family
- c. Martha went out to meet Jesus
- d. Mary stayed at home

2. *Martha's complaining, limited faith*

- a. Her complaining belief
- b. Her limited belief:
That Jesus' power
was less than God's power

3. *Martha's fundamental faith*

- a. Jesus' declaration
- b. Martha's expression of faith in the future resurrection

4. *Martha's declared faith*

- a. Jesus' great claim
- b. Jesus' promise: Believe
 - 1) He who believes and dies will live
 - 2) He who lives and believes will never die; he never perishes
- c. Martha's declaration
 - 1) He is the Christ
 - 2) He is the Son of God
 - 3) He is sent by God

17 On his arrival,
Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,

19 And many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know 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 will live, even though he dies;

26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus and Mary: The Real Needs of People

John 11: 28–37

1. Need 1:

The glorious message of Christ

- a. He is the Teacher
- b. The Teacher is here
- c. The Teacher asks for you

2. Need 2:

The right response

- arise quickly and come to Christ

3. Need 3:

The reaching out of people to help others

4. Need 4:

The confession of faith

(even if it is limited and weak)

- a. The confession: Lord
- b. The complaining, limited faith

5. Need 5:

The understanding and compassion of Jesus

- a. He was deeply moved
 - 1) Over death
 - 2) Over man's pain
- b. He asked where the dead person was
- c. He wept in love:
Over death and man's pain

6. Conclusion:

***The misunderstanding of people:
How could Jesus love so much
and let this happen?***

28 And after she had said this,
she went back and called her sister Mary aside.
“The Teacher is here,” she said,
“and is asking for you.”

29 When Mary heard this,
she got up quickly and went to him.

30. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village,
but was still at the place
where Martha had met him.

31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house,
comforting her,
noticed how quickly she got up and went out,
they followed her,
supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place
where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

33 When Jesus saw her weeping,
and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping,
he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked.
“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said,
“See how he loved him!”

37 But some of them said,
“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man
have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus and Lazarus: Power Over Death

John 11: 38–46

1. *The great confrontation of Jesus with the dead*

- a. He was deeply moved
- b. He was confronted by a believer's objection

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.
It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

39 "Take away the stone," he said.
"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days."

2. *The great promise of unlimited faith*

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

3. *The great prayer of purpose*

- a. Addressed God as "Father"
- b. Made a request
- c. Offered thanksgiving
- d. Expressed perfect confidence
- e. Bore testimony to those standing by

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 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."

4. *The great shout of power over death*

- a. Was within Christ
- b. Was personal:
Called Lazarus by name
- c. The result
 - 1) He arose
 - 2) He received Jesus' personal attention

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 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."

5. *The reaction to Jesus' great power*

- a. Some believed, put their faith in Him
- b. Some caused trouble

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.