

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Sixteen

V. Raising the Dead (2): Raising Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that the Lord Jesus is able to meet every man's need, even Lazarus', who had died and been buried for four days. Although the Lord Jesus loved Lazarus He did not prevent him from dying. He chose instead to allow him to die and to raise him up four days later. In this way He could show His disciples who He was (the resurrection and the life) so they could know Him and believe in Him. Lazarus' death was for the glory of God.

Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he should die, shall live.
John 11:25

Facts to Teach:

1. In the four Gospels, the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the greatest miracle performed upon men by the Lord Jesus.
2. This record emphasizes that the Lord Jesus loved this family (Lazarus, Martha and Mary) very much, and that they also loved the Lord (v. 2, 5). Nevertheless, when Lazarus became sick and his two sisters prayed for the Lord to come quickly (v. 3) to heal him, the Lord did not come immediately. He waited until after Lazarus died, then He came. (He did not respond to their prayer-message according to their time, but His time; nor in their way, but His way.)
3. No one realized the greatness of the Lord Jesus' power: that He could meet the need of even a man who had been dead for four days, and had even begun to decay and smell. The Lord Jesus' disciples knew that He could heal the sick and prevent them from dying, but they didn't realize that even man's greatest enemy, death, was no problem for Him.
4. The disciples did not simply follow the Lord Jesus and obey Him. Instead they expressed many opinions and frustrated the Lord:
 - a) In v. 7 Jesus said, "Let us go to Judea..."
In v. 8 the disciples said, "...Are you going there again?"
 - b) In v. 11 Jesus said, "I am going that I may awaken him out of sleep."
In v. 12 the disciples said, "...he will recover" (meaning, "you don't need to go, he will be O.K.)
Also in v. 16 Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."
 - c) In v. 23 the Lord Jesus told Martha, "Your brother shall rise again," meaning that he was going to resurrect him immediately.
In v. 24 Martha said, "I know he will rise again, ...in the last day."
5. Finally, Jesus came to His dear disciple Lazarus' tomb. All were crying and sorrowing, for death had come and taken away their dear brother and friend. Jesus also wept, not because of sorrow that Lazarus had died, but of sorrow that His disciples did not realize who He was, the resurrection and the life.
6. In this story we see that our concepts and opinions frustrate the Lord (He knows best how and when to answer our prayers) and our blindness and unbelief causes Him much sorrow, even to weep. We should learn to simply trust in the Lord and obey Him. He knows all, He is over everything (even death), He is the Lord of all; and whatever He chooses to do is the best.

(Continued)

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7. The Lord Jesus allowed Lazarus to die because He was going to use death as an opportunity to:
 - a) demonstrate the greatest power in the universe, the power of resurrection.
 - b) reveal to His disciples who He was, the resurrection and the life.
 - c) manifest God's glory, and to glorify God.
8. The Lord Jesus commanded the disciples to roll the stone away from the grave.
9. The Lord Jesus then prayed to the Father and thanked Him, called Lazarus by name and commanded him to come forth.
10. Lazarus came forth, still bound hands and feet in grave clothes with his face wrapped about with a handkerchief. Jesus told the disciples to loose him and let him go.
11. As a result of the death and resurrection of Lazarus many people believed on the Lord Jesus.