

Lazarus

John 11

Lazarus Introduction

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- Death is undeniably the most severe consequence of sin.
- And it affects all of us.
- The spiritual death which we cannot see is most clearly illustrated in the physical death which we can see and understand.

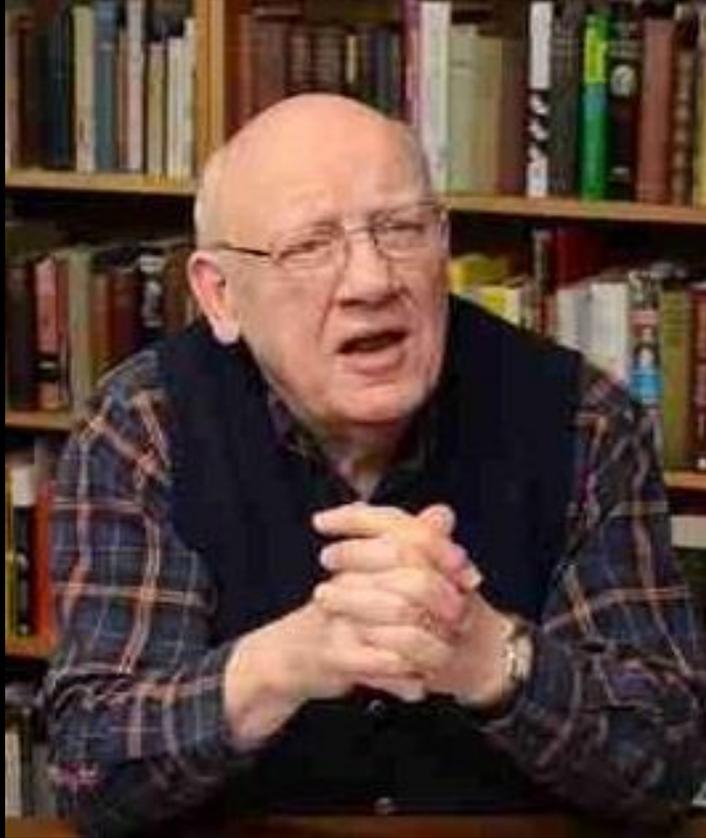
Lazarus Introduction

- Jesus has the ability to give eternal life to those who are spiritually dead.
- But we cannot really see that power with our own eyes.

Lazarus Introduction

- Jesus gave the people of his day evidence for this power by raising some who had physically died.
- The most detailed example of this that we have is Lazarus – who was a friend of Jesus.

Lazarus Introduction

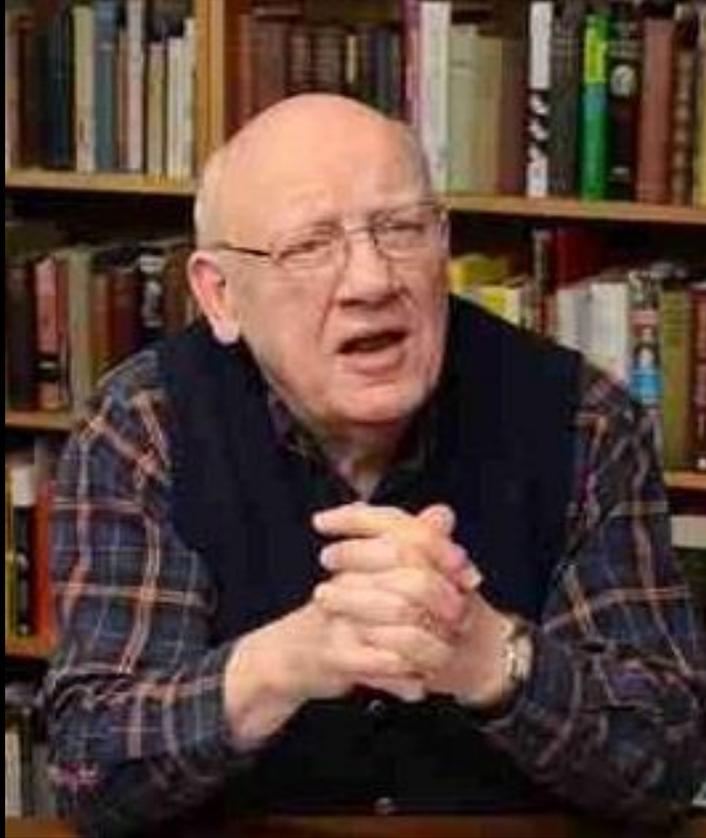


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– Warren Wiersbe

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If Jesus Christ can do nothing about death, then whatever else He can do amounts to nothing. “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable’ (1 Cor. 15:19). Death is man’s last enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), but Jesus Christ has defeated this horrible enemy totally and permanently.

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Lazarus Introduction

- The point of the miracle is that we would put our faith in Jesus – that we would trust, that we would believe.
- As we read through the chapter, try to count the number of times we see some form of the word *believe*.

Lazarus was ill. John 11:1-4

Lazarus was ill. **John 11:1-4**

- Jesus was in one of two places, either one or several days' journey from Bethany near Jerusalem.
- Mary, Martha and Jesus were all good friends.
- What he says is meant to reassure his followers.

Lazarus was ill. John 11:1-4

Jesus does not mean that this sickness is not fatal, but that it will not end—ultimately—in death. Far from it: it will end in resurrection from the dead, and that for God's glory.

— D. A. Carson



Lazarus was ill. John 11:1-4

- As we will see, however, the story quickly gets a bit more complicated.

Let us go. John 11:5-16

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- Perhaps the oddest thing about this section is that Jesus delays, lets Lazarus die and even lets him lie there in the tomb.
- When we confront all of life's delays, difficulties and disappointments, the best light we have to walk by is the word of God.

Let us go. John 11:5-16

This story teaches us two things about God's delays. The first is that they are inevitable... Our imperfect desires ... make us want immediate answers, and render us unprepared for the patient ripening of God's plans ... The second point about God's delays is that they are not final. He will come, in his own time and way.

– Bruce Milne



Let us go. John 11:5-16

- **11:15** Jesus said he delayed “so that you may believe.”
- His disciples could not understand this, but they were about to find out what Jesus meant.

Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-27

Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-27

- The question Jesus asks Martha applies to us all.

John 11:25-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.
Do you believe this?”

Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-27

Martha's Yes, Lord introduces ... a personal confidence in Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. ... Her reply carries the argument forward, for she holds that the one who is 'the resurrection and the life' must be such by virtue of the fact that he is God's promised Messiah.

– D. A. Carson



Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-27

Her firm “I believe” reflects the state of her confident trust. Her faith is a rich mixture of personal trust and of confidence that certain things about Jesus are true, that he is the Christ, that he is the Son of God, and that he is the one who was to come into the world.

– D. A. Carson



Resurrection and the Life John 11:17-27

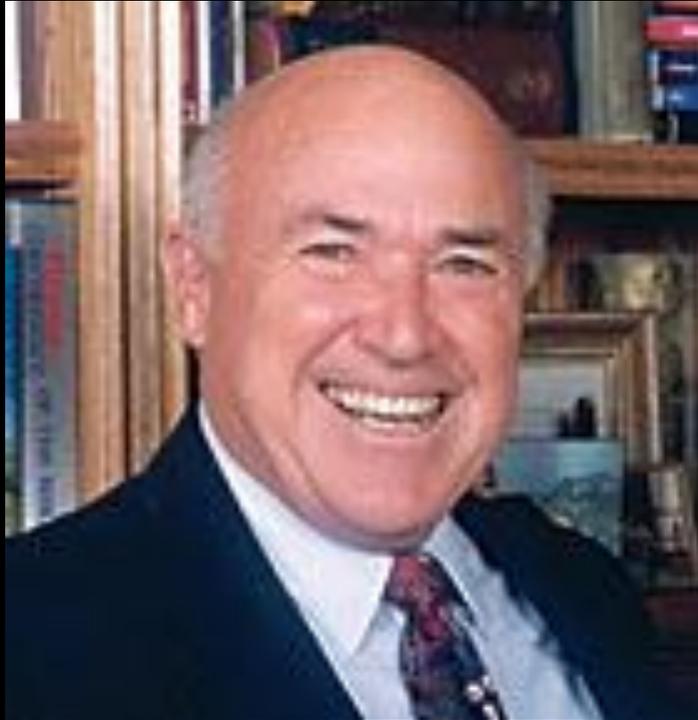
- Martha expresses complete trust in Jesus even though she really does not understand what Jesus intends to do.
- Our belief in Jesus needs to be equally rich, and must include a total trust – even in matters of life and death.

Jesus wept. John 11:28-37

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- The scene is very typical considering that a young man died.
- Jesus might appear to simply be joining in the mourning, but his understanding of the situation is so much deeper.

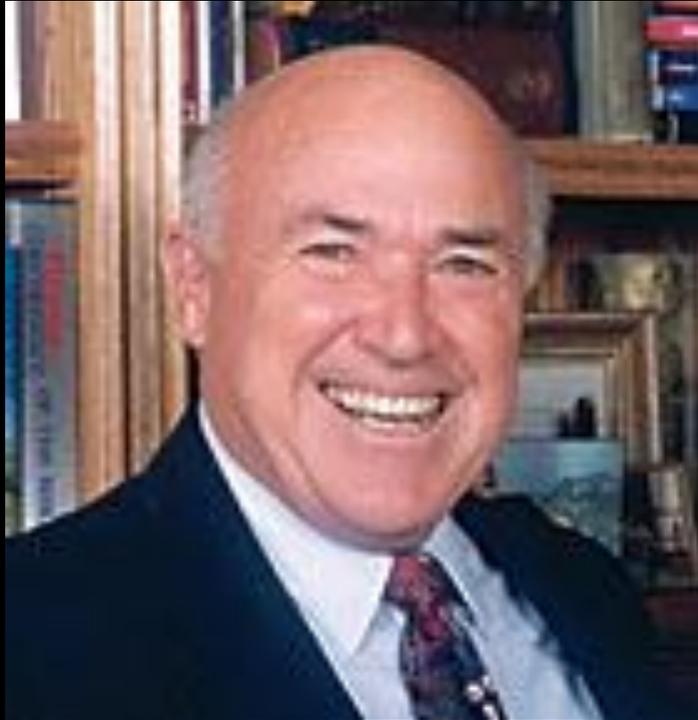
Jesus wept. John 11:28-37



When Jesus saw all the pain and suffering of the people, He wept ... He was sad because he saw the consequences of man's sin. He saw all the pain in the world that is caused by man's rebellion against God ...

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

Jesus wept. John 11:28-37



Seeing the sorrow and bitterness and pain that sin brings, Jesus was moved with compassion and wept. His heart is still broken when He sees what we've done to ourselves.

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

Jesus wept. John 11:28-37

- Christ's compassion is motivated by a fuller understanding of sin and death than we have.
- He is not only sad over sin, but has the ability to do something about it.
- He has power over death and gives eternal life to those who will trust him to do so.

Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44

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- Clearly, no one was expecting Jesus to do this.
- Jesus has a way of defying all of our expectations.

Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44

There was a common belief that the soul remained near the body for three days after death, hoping for an opportunity to return. But after that it left for good, leaving the person irrevocably dead. Lazarus would have been known by all to be truly dead.

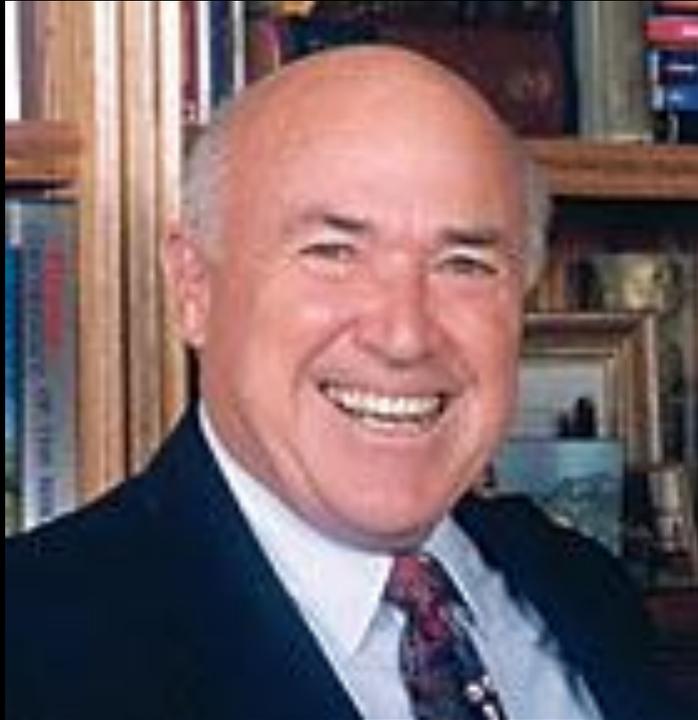
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Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44

- We can only imagine the drama of the situation.
- “Is he serious?”
- Even his prayer is perhaps the most confident prayer ever offered. It is almost a “Thank you,” without a request.

Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44



Jesus was laying it all on the line in one moment. All the bystanders and mourners were wondering what would happen. If Lazarus didn't come to life, Jesus would be discredited. But Lazarus came shuffling out of the tomb, proving that Jesus could back up His words with action.

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44

John 5:25 (ESV)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

Lazarus, Come out. John 11:38-44

- John now gives us the results of Christ's miracle.
- We are especially going to focus on the words of one man named Caiaphas.

Caiaphas John 11:45-57

Caiaphas John 11:45-57

- As with much of what Jesus said and did, division was the result of it.
- Some believed. Others were so upset that they could think of nothing better to do than to plot against Jesus the Christ.

Caiaphas John 11:45-57

Both Caiaphas and John understand Jesus' death to be substitutionary: either Jesus dies, or the nation dies. 'If He dies the nation lives. It is His life instead of theirs'. But while Caiaphas is thinking at the purely political level, John invites his readers to think in terms of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29, 34).

– D. A. Carson



Caiaphas John 11:45-57



Though Caiaphas was speaking only in terms of his own political self-interest, God used him to express one of the central truths about the death of Christ. Jesus would indeed 'die for the people' (11:50), and not only for the Jewish people but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one (11:51-53) ...

*– Samuel Ngewa,
Africa International University*

Caiaphas John 11:45-57



Christ died in the place of and for the benefit of sinners. By his death and on the basis of their faith in him, he brought all the scattered and lost sheep into one fold.

*– Samuel Ngewa,
Africa International University*

Caiaphas John 11:45-57

- The raising of Lazarus was the last straw as far as the religious leaders were concerned.
- By turning so firmly against Jesus they were answering Christ's question to Martha very firmly for themselves.
- They did not believe.

Lazarus Conclusions

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- The question Jesus asks Martha applies to us all.

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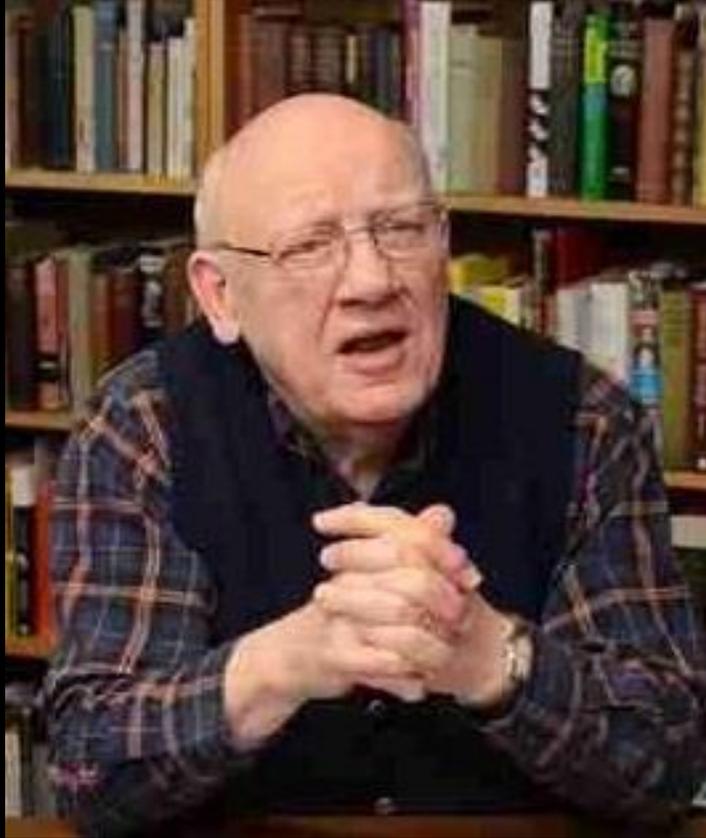
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Lazarus Conclusions

- And our answer is every bit as important as Martha's or the answer of Caiaphas and the council.

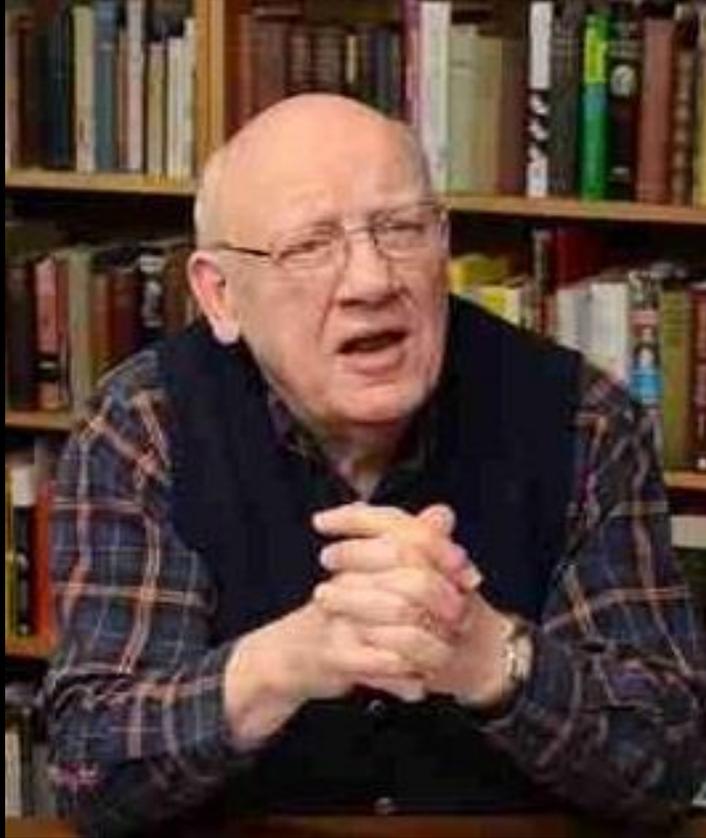
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Lazarus Conclusions

- Jesus is asking us to trust him with everything.
- Martha's response needs to become ours.

John 11:27 (ESV)

She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."