

LAZARUS'S NEW TOMBSTONE: VACANT!

John 11:1-53

He's alive!

Death died when Christ rose. *Anon*

The best news the world ever had came from a graveyard. *Anon*

Our Lord is risen from the dead, our Jesus is gone up on high. The powers of hell are captive led, dragged to the portals of the sky. *Charles Wesley*

We are more sure to arise out of our graves than out of our beds. *Thomas Watson*

If Christ be not risen, the dreadful consequence is not that death ends life, but that we are still in our sins. *G.A. Studdert Kennedy*

Jesus has forced open a door that had been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. *C.S. Lewis*

“There are but two essential requirements: has anyone cheated death and proved it?

Second: is it available to me?

Here is the complete record:

Confucius' tomb – occupied.

Buddha's tomb – occupied.

Mohammed's tomb – occupied.

Jesus' tomb – EMPTY

Argue as you will. There is no point in following a loser.” *G.B. Hardy*

The Death and Resurrection of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.” ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. ⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples *said to Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?” **John 11:1-8 NASB**

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- Jesus has friends (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus) that He loves and that love Him. (v1-4)
 - ...” he whom You love so well is sick...” (v4 **Amplified Bible**)
 - ...”Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. [They were His dear friends, and He held them in loving esteem.] (v5 **Amplified Bible**)
 - This sickness is not to end in death...but so that the Son of God may be glorified by it. (v4)
 - Jesus hears that Lazarus is sick and delays His visit by two days! (v6)
 - After two days, He tells the disciples that they are going to ‘risk it’ and visit Lazarus. (See **John 8:59**)

¹¹ This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.” ¹² The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.” **John 11:11-15 NASB**

- Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus is asleep...they don’t understand so he tells them Lazarus is dead. He wants them to see and believe! (v15)
 - “It will be for your good and for the good of your faith...” **John 11:15 New English Bible**
 - They were with Jesus every day, and Jesus tells the disciples that they need to experience what is going to happen!
 - ...This ‘just in’...miracles are good for you and good for your faith! (This statement has not yet been FDA approved.)
 - **John 11:16**, Thomas says...”let us also go so that we may die with Him.”
 - Thomas was ‘close’! Jesus was not taking them to Bethany so they could all die, but so that everyone could really live.

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about ^[d]two miles off; ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning *their* brother. ²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the

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last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, *even* He who comes into the world.”²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him.

³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,³⁴ and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ So the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?”³⁸ So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **John 11:17-38 NASB**

- Jesus arrives in Bethany (**v17-38**)
 - Lazarus has been dead for four days. (**v17**)
 - Martha tells Jesus that Lazarus would still be alive if he had been there. (**v21**)
 - She believes that her brother will be revived on the last day. (**v24**)
- Jesus declares, “I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. (**v26**)”
 - Physical death cannot interrupt resurrection life!
 - ...” And no one who is living and has faith in Me will ever see death...” (**John 11:26 Basic English Translation**) Do you believe this? This is the question of the day!
 - Martha tells Jesus that she believes in the resurrection of the ‘last day’.
 - Jesus tells her that the resurrection is not just an ‘event’...He says, “I am the Resurrection and the Life!”
 - Death is not the only enemy at work in this hour.
- Mary now says to Jesus exactly what Martha said...Lazarus is dead but he would still be alive if Jesus had come. (**v32**)
 - The ‘accuser’ is hard at work.

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- Martha blames Jesus in **v21**.
- Mary blames Jesus in **v32**.
- The mourners accuse Him in **v37**.
- Jesus 'sees' through it all and steps up to do what He came to do.
- Jesus is deeply moved. He weeps and is sorrowful. But He is also 'troubled or angry in spirit and very agitated'...*Whitacre*
- He is angry at death itself and the terror and sorrow it causes us. He has sorrow over the suffering of His friends and anger at death and the enemy. Jesus wept while the crowd taunted. (**v33-37**)
- The language 'deeply moved' means an expression of intense feeling! It is used to describe a horse 'snorting' in anger. Jesus is angry at the enemy, at his tactics and at death. He is sorrowful towards His friend and ready to act.
- The resurrection of Lazarus (**v38-46**)
 - Jesus says, "Remove the stone." (**v39**)
 - Mary tells Him that there will be a stench if they remove the stone. (**v39**)
 - Jesus tells her that she is about to see the Glory of God. (**v40**)
 - He prays...for the sake of the crowd...so that they could believe. (**v41-42**)
 - Jesus is 'coming for Lazarus'...but with a 'foretaste' for the enemy that He was going to come for every believer that would ever live in any time span in all the earth.
 - Lazarus comes forth! (**v43**)
 - The man who died came forth...(v44)
 - Lazarus was bound head and foot with wrappings and his face was wrapped in a cloth. (**v44**)
 - Unbind him and let him go! (**v44**)
 - What has you all bound up? Are the trappings and wrappings of your lifestyle keeping you from freedom and peace? Are you held back and blinded by the hole that you have been in? Jesus can set you free and make you whole!
 - ..." many of the Jews, who came to Mary, and saw what He had done believed in Him." (**v45**)
 - Some others went to the Pharisees and told them what took place, and the leaders plotted to kill Him. (**v47-53**)
 - Look at what happens to Lazarus. (**John 12:1-2,9-12**)
 - The enemy opposes the one who is resurrection life and everyone who has tasted resurrection life.
 - May we have the same reputation as Lazarus..."On account of him (Lazarus) many believed!"