

LAZARUS – BOUND TO LIVE

John 11

“No resurrection, no Christianity.”

Michael Ramsey

“Christianity is essentially a religion of resurrection.” **James S. Stewart**

“The resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern.” **C. H. Spurgeon**

“I know pretty well what evidence is; and, I tell you, such evidence as that for the resurrection has never broken down yet.” **Lord Lyndhurst**

“The claims of Jesus Christ, namely His resurrection, has led me as often as I have tried to examine the evidence to believe it as a fact beyond dispute.”

Lord Caldecote, former Lord Chief Justice

“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

“The man in Christ rose again, not only the God.” **C. S. Lewis**

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” ⁴But 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.” ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. ⁷Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹This 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.” ¹²The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. ¹⁴So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.” ¹⁶Therefore Thomas, who is

called Didymus, said to *his* fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.” **John 11:1-16 NASB**

- The incident involving Mary is found in **John 12:3-8**.

³ Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor *people*?” ⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. ⁸ For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”

John 12:3-8 NASB

- The disciples warned Jesus of His ‘popularity’ in Judea...He is not concerned and tells them He is going to wake Lazarus up.
 - They didn’t get it, so He makes it clear, Lazarus is dead.
 - Jesus tells them that He is glad He wasn’t there when the death occurred because now they can believe.
 - The disciples still are not fully ‘tuned in’ and Thomas says, “If this makes Jesus glad (**v15**) let’s all go die.”
 - Sometimes circumstances become overwhelming, it doesn’t look like God will ever come through...He may simply be working to birth faith in someone...you or someone else.

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about 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 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?"

John 11:17-37 NASB

- Jesus arrives and sees Martha first...immediately she tells Him, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died."
 - Jesus responds saying, "Your brother will rise again"...Martha gave Him a response that revealed her mis-understanding.
 - She knew there would be a resurrection...but that is not what Jesus was speaking about.
 - Jesus tells her that He is the resurrection and the life...and believing in Him means that you will live even if you die...
 - He asks her if she believes His words and she says yes.
 - This is a valid question even today – are we trusting Jesus for resurrection? Are we really trusting Him with life?
 - Martha steps out and Mary steps in...her first conversation started with her telling Jesus that her brother would not have died if Jesus had come earlier.
 - Many of the Jewish people who had come to help the family are also present. Some were touched by Jesus' love for this family and others were critical of Jesus for not keeping Lazarus alive.
 - Jesus, touched with their pain and weeping out of concern for His friends, goes to the tomb.

³⁸ So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. **John 11:38-46 NASB**

- Jesus sees our tears and is moved by our pain.
- When Jesus is working, He knows what is happening and what is going to happen and He will even risk our misunderstanding to fulfill God's purposes. He does know the end from the beginning.
- He tells the people to remove the stone covering the grave.
 - They warn Him that there will be a 'stench' because Lazarus has been buried for four days.
 - Believing is seeing! (v40)
 - Jesus prays, not to be heard in heaven but so that the people gathered will get touched by God.
 - "Lazarus – come forth!"

To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **John 10:3 NASB**

- He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out...
 - If you know Him, one day He will call you by name and physical death will lose hold on you and He will lead you out to life forevermore with Him.
- Jesus calls Lazarus forth and He comes forth bound head to toe, so Jesus says, "Unbind him...loose him and let him go."
 - Regardless of what you may be trapped in, or what lifestyle you may be buried in...He is here to set you free.

- He frees us from the bonds of sin, sickness, depression, shame, regret, skepticism, and hopelessness...
- Many of Lazarus' mourners got saved that day by believing in Jesus. They came to see Lazarus, Mary, and Martha and they found Jesus.

Finding Jesus is exactly why many of you are here today.

Is He calling your name?