

“I Am the Resurrection” - John 11:32-46

Ask - “Have you ever been disappointed by a friend or loved one who didn’t show up on time?”

Background - After departing from Jerusalem, Jesus spent some time beyond the Jordan River where John the Baptist had been ministering earlier. While He was there, Jesus received a report that His good friend Lazarus was gravely ill back in Bethany.

“Sorrow and Skepticism” - John 11:32-37

(v32) Read verses 1-31. Who came to Jesus, what did she do before Him, and why did she rebuke Him?

(v33-35) How did Jesus respond to the sorrow of Mary and the other Jews who came with her? What did He say, where did they lead Him, and what did He do?

(v36-37) When Jesus wept, what were the differing reactions by the Jews who were present? Discuss.

MARY AND OTHERS CAME OUT TO MEET JESUS WHEN HE ARRIVED. SHE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTED THAT HE HAD NOT COME SOONER - IN TIME TO HEAL HER BROTHER LAZARUS BEFORE HE DIED.

“Stone and Stench” - John 11:38-41a

(v38-39a) When Jesus came to the tomb, what did He find blocking its entrance? What did He ask those present to do? What did this scene foreshadow?

(v39b) Who was concerned about moving the stone, and why? What was significant about being dead for 4 days (*research this online*)?

(v40-41a) How did Jesus respond to Martha’s doubt (look back at what Jesus said to her in verse 25)? So, did they remove the stone for the cave’s entrance?

JESUS CAME TO THE TOMB BUT IT WAS CLOSED. MARTHA WAS HESITANT TO OPEN IT, BUT JESUS TOLD HER TO BELIEVE. THEY MOVED THE STONE AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE.

“Raised and Reported” - John 11:41b-46

(v41b-42) Why did Jesus thank the Father? Why did Jesus speak aloud for the people to hear even though it wasn’t necessary?

(v43-44) What did Jesus cry aloud for them to hear? What happened? What did Jesus ask them to do for Lazarus?

(v45-46) In the aftermath of this miracle, what happened? Read ahead in verses 47-53. What was the Pharisees' reaction?

JESUS CRIED OUT SO THAT THE PEOPLE MIGHT HEAR AND BELIEVE. HE RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD. MANY DID BELIEVE, BUT THIS WAS THE LAST STRAW FOR THE PHARISEES.

Application - The resurrection of Lazarus was 1 of 3 instances in the Gospels where Jesus raised someone from the dead. He demonstrated His power over physical death as irrefutable evidence of His deity. Jesus proved Himself to be the Messiah, the Son of God. And though we marvel at His ability to raise the dead physically, His greater purpose was to raise those who are spiritually dead as a result of their sin. This life is temporary and fleeting, but the next life is eternal. Praise the Lord who saves not only our bodies, but more importantly our souls!