

The Raising Of Lazarus

John 11:1-54

John is the only **Gospel** writer that records this particular miracle of **Christ**. The actual miracle is recorded in **verses 43-44**. What precedes and precipitates the actual miracle is full of valuable and practical lessons that should greatly encourage and strengthen the **child of God** in their walk through this world! The events that are recorded here, tell of the **love of Christ**, which is a love that is beyond human description, and absolutely immeasurable! The events that are recorded here, tell of the **all-knowing providence of God**, and serve as a reminder of **God's ordering of all things**, and how that **the purposes of God are for the strengthening of the faith of His children!** The events that are recorded here serve as a reminder that **CHRIST CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, AND THAT NO SITUATION IS BEYOND HIS CONTROL!**

The events of this chapter should be viewed in the light of what is said in **verse 5** "**Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus**" This is a love that is **eternal** (everlasting without beginning or end), **immutable** (it is unchanging in its degree). **IT IS A LOVE THAT NEVER GROWS COLD AND NEVER WANES!** It is a love that is **unconditional** (there is absolutely no cause for it, outside of God Himself), **infinite** (it goes beyond all), **invincible** (a love that goes beyond all barriers and obstacles), and **generous!** **NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A LOVE THAT HAS DONE AND SACRIFICED MORE!**

I. LESSONS FROM CHRIST'S LOVE

① **Christ's Love Does Not Prevent His Loved Ones From Being So Sick That They Die:**

It is stated **four** times (**verses 1, 3, 6**) that **Lazarus** was "**sick**" **God** in His love did not prevent sickness from entering the body of **Lazarus!** Could He have prevented the sickness? **YES! BUT HE DID NOT!** The **Lord** allowed sickness to enter the body of **Lazarus** (a sickness that would result in death), and that He allowed such, does not diminish His love! **Christ** loved **Lazarus** and he became so sick that he died, **BUT THROUGH IT ALL CHRIST'S LOVE WAS LIKE A BANNER OVER LAZARUS!**

② **Christ's Love Does Not Prevent Our Loved Ones From Being Sick:**

Martha and **Mary** loved the **Lord**, and **were serving the Lord**, and **they loved their brother Lazarus!** The **Lord** loved **Lazarus** and He loved **Martha** and **Mary** (**verse 5**). But His love did not prevent Him from allowing sickness to enter the body of **Lazarus** and eventually death! His love did not prevent Him from allowing **Martha** and **Mary** to suffer grief and sorrow as they watched their brother suffer and die! When **Martha** came to **Jesus** in **verse 21** she said to **Christ** "**Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my**

brother had not died” **Mary** said the same thing to **Christ** in **verse 32!** The words **“My brother”** reveal some of the personal pain of **Martha** and **Mary!** **BUT THROUGH IT ALL CHRIST’S LOVE WAS LIKE A BANNER OVER THEM!**

③ **Christ’s Love Does Not Prevent His Loved Ones From Experiencing Hardships:**

○ *There Was The Hardship Of Serious Sickness:*

It is stated in **verse 1** **“Now a certain man was sick named Lazarus”** This for **Lazarus** was a trial, a difficulty, a hardship, an interruption to his normal everyday life! It is stated in **verse 2** that **Lazarus** was the brother of **Mary** and **Martha**, so this was also a trial, a difficulty, a hardship, a burden, and concern, and an interruption in the lives of **Mary** and **Martha**.

○ *This Was A Hardship That Involved Death:*

it is recorded in **verse 3** that **Mary** and **Martha** had sent word unto **Jesus** that **Lazarus** was sick, and in **verse 6** it is stated that **Jesus** **“abode two days still in the same place where He was”** **Lazarus** died (**verses 11, 13, 14**). As a result; **Mary** and **Martha** no doubt suffered grief, sorrow, and tremendous heartache!

○ *This Hardship Involved A Funeral:*

Mary and **Martha** after they had experienced the sorrow, the anguish, and the helplessness of watching their brother die, they next had the sorrow and the heartache of burying their brother!

○ *This Hardship Involved Many Emotions:*

In **verse 21** **Martha** said to **Jesus** **“If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died”** and **Mary** said the same thing to Him (**verse 32**). These words are very revealing as to the feelings that **Martha** and **Mary** experienced during their brother’s sickness and death! **It was a time of great internal personal pain;** The words **“my brother”** reveal some of the personal grief and heartache that they both felt individually. **It was a time of personal loneliness;** They both said **“If thou hadst been here”** **Martha** and **Mary** had sent word to **Jesus** concerning the sickness of their brother (**verses 2-3**), no doubt expecting **Jesus** to come right away! But instead of coming, **Jesus** remained where He was (**verse 6**). No doubt **Martha** and **Mary** looked for Him while they ministered to their brother! **THEY WATCHED THEIR BROTHER DIE, AND EVEN BURIED HIM, AND JESUS STILL HAD NOT COME!** **It was a time of personal disappointment;** There is a tone of disappointment in those words; **“if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died”** When **Martha** and **Mary** sent word to **Jesus** concerning the sickness of their brother, they just knew that He would come, **AND HE DID, BUT NOT IN THEIR TIME!** Oh, how disappointed they must have been when **Lazarus** took his last breathe, and when they carried the body of their brother to the grave, and when they walked away from the grave, leaving behind the body of the one they loved, and **Jesus** still had not come! **It was a time of personal helplessness;** **“if Thou hadst been here, my brother**

had not died” In other words, “Lord, we could not keep him from dying but *if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*”

It was a time of great **confusion** and **bewilderment**; “*if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*” **Jesus** knew why He delayed His coming to them, but **Martha** and **Mary** did not **know**, they did not **understand**! The hours just kept on passing, and they did not know, nor did they understand why **Jesus** had not come! The fact that **Jesus** did not come when they called, the fact that He did not come when they expected Him to, the fact that He did not do what they were certain that He would do, was all a mystery to them! What **Jesus** said in **John 13:7** “*What I do thou knowest not now*” is so very true!

II. ENCOURAGEMENT FROM CHRIST’S LOVE

① **A Sense Of Christ’s Love Led Martha And Mary To Seek Christ:**

Martha and **Mary** knew that the **Lord** loved **Lazarus**, and that He loved them, and SUCH AN ASSURANCE CAUSED THEM TO SPREAD THEIR NEED BEFORE HIM!

② **Christ In His Love Does All For The Sake Of Those He Loves:**

Though **Martha** and **Mary** did not know what the outcome of all this would be, the **Lord** did (**verse 4**), and through it all, He acted for their well-being (**verse 15**). The **Lord** does not send and allow **sickness** and **affliction** to destroy those He loves, but to **help**, and for His glory! The **Lord** does not send or allow **sickness** and **affliction** upon our loved ones to cause us grief and sorrow, but to **help** and **draw** us closer to Him.

③ **Christ In His Love, Knew The Condition Of Lazarus And What He Himself Would Do:**

The entire time that **Lazarus** was sick, even before the messengers of **Martha** and **Mary** came to **Jesus** in **verse 3** He knew everything that **Lazarus** was going through, and He loved Him! He knew everything that **Martha** and **Mary** were going through and He loved them! HE NOT ONLY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE GOING THROUGH, HE KNEW WHAT HE WOULD DO OUT OF LOVE FOR THEM (**verse 11**).

④ **Christ’s Love Gave Hope:**

When **Martha** and **Mary** sent message to **Christ** concerning the **sickness** of **Lazarus**, **Christ** did not immediately respond, but there was still hope, for they knew that **Christ** loved them! **Christ** could have told them immediately that “*Lazarus will die, and you will bury him, but then I will come and raise him from the grave*” But **Christ**, out of love for them would not have them quit praying and seeking Him! **Martha’s** words to **Christ** in **verse 22** reveal that she still had **hope** in **Christ**! Her hope was based upon who He was, and upon His love for them! THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE IN CHRIST’S LOVE!

⑤ **Christ's Love Gives Comfort:**

The friends out of love and concern for **Martha** and **Mary** sought to be of comfort to them (**verse 19**), and no doubt, to some degree were a comfort to them! BUT THERE IS A COMFORT IN CHRIST THAT CANNOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE! After **Martha** came to **Jesus** and spoke to Him, and He to her (**verses 20-26**), she was greatly comforted (**verses 27-28**). CHRIST, OUT OF LOVE COMFORTS HIS PEOPLE WITH THE COMFORT THAT ONLY HE CAN GIVE!

⑥ **Christ In His Love Draws His People Closer To Himself:**

Martha "went her way and called **Mary** her sister secretly, saying, *The Master is come and calleth for thee*" (**verse 28**). JESUS CALLED MARY BECAUSE HE LOVED HER! He called her to bless her! He called her to bring her joy! He called her to help her! "*The Master is come and calleth for thee*" To bless, strengthen, and enable His people! THE LORD'S CALL IS A CALL OF LOVE!

⑦ **Christ's Love Is A Compassionate, Sympathizing Love:**

It is recorded in **verses 33, 35** that when **Jesus** saw **Mary** and the others weeping, He felt their pain, sorrow, and suffering! Out of love; He is "*touched with the feelings of our infirmities*" (**Hebrews 4:15**).

III. LESSONS ABOUT WHAT TO DO IN TIME OF HARDSHIP

① **Seek Christ:**

It is recorded in **verse 3** "*Therefore his sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord behold, he whom thou lovest is sick*" When **Lazarus** became sick; THEY TOLD JESUS!

② **Never Lose Sight Of The Love Of Christ:**

It is clearly stated that all three who were suffering were loved by **Christ** (**verse 5**). When **Lazarus** became sick; **Martha** and **Mary** had an awareness of **Christ's** love (**verse 3**).

③ **Never Forget That The Lord In His Love Does All For Our Spiritual Well-Being:**

Though **Martha** and **Mary** did not know what the outcome of all this would be, **the Lord** did (**verses 4, 14-15**). NEVER FORGET, THOUGH WE MAY NOT KNOW WHY, THE LORD DOES!

④ **Never Forget That The Lord Knows And He Knows What He Will Do:**

The entire time that **Lazarus** was sick, even before the messengers of **Martha** and **Mary** came to **Jesus** in **verse 3** **Jesus** knew everything that **Lazarus** was going through, and **He loved Him**! He knew everything that **Martha** and **Mary** were going through and **He loved them**! He not only knew what they were going through, He knew

what He would do out of love for them! THE LORD IS NEVER IN A QUANDARY AS TO WHAT TO DO!

5 Never Give Up Hope In The Lord:

Lazarus had been dead for **four** days, and **Martha** maintained **hope** and **confidence** in **Christ** (**verse 22**). Her words *“even now”* reveal that she was aware of how **desperate** and **impossible** her situation was, but she still believed that there was **hope** in **Christ!**

6 Never Stop Believing Who Christ Is:

As the conversation progressed between **Martha** and **Christ**; He asked her a question *“Believest thou this?”* (**verse 26**), and she responded without hesitation *“Yea Lord, I believe that Thou art* (presently) *the Christ, the Son of God”* **Martha** no doubt, still not fully understanding *“why”* BELIEVED THAT CHRIST REMAINED WHO HE ALWAYS WAS!

7 Never Stop Recognizing Christ As Master:

Martha not only **believed**, but **recognized Christ** as **Lord!** After her conversation with **Christ**, she then returned to the place where **Mary** was **grieving**, and whispered in her ear; *“The Master is come”* (**verse 28**). **Mary** knew exactly who **Martha** was speaking of (**verse 29**), because she too recognized one *“Master”*

8 Never Stop Hearing His Loving Invitation:

Martha whispered in **Mary's** ear; *“The Master is come, and calleth for thee”* (**verse 28**). The result; *“As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came unto Him”* (**verse 29**). **Mary** still grieving, still with an aching heart, and perhaps filled with questions responded to the call without hesitation! The **Lord** is always calling His own, and He does so; to **bless**, **strengthen**, and **enable** them, and to fill their hearts with **joy!** Notice **verse 32** *“Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet”* THIS IS WHERE THE CHILD OF GOD FINDS RELIEF!

9 Keep Your Heart In A Condition Of Being Drawn To The Lord:

Martha and **Mary** were grieving the death of their brother (**verse 19**), when **Martha** heard that **Christ** was on his way, and immediately HER HEART WAS DRAWN TO HIM, AND SHE FLED TO HIM (**verse 20**). When **Martha** whispered in **Mary's** ear; *“The Master is come, and calleth for thee”* THE HEART OF MARY WAS DRAWN TO CHRIST!

IV. THE RAISING OF LAZARUS A PICTURE OF THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION

① *The Condition Of Lazarus:*

Lazarus was **dead** (**verses 11-14, 21, 32, 39, 41, 44**). The **unsaved** individual is **spiritually dead!** **God** warned **Adam** & **Eve** that if they ate “ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” that they would “surely die” (**Genesis 2:17**). **THEY DIED SPIRITUALLY!** Man is alive physically (**Ephesians 2:2-3**) but in the spiritual realm he is dead (**Ephesians 2:1, 5**). This speaks of the **inability** of the **unsaved** in the spiritual realm:

- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** See The Kingdom Of God (**John 3:3-7**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Enter The Kingdom Of God (**John 3:3-7**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Hear And Understand The Word (**John 8:43**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Come To Christ (**John 6:44**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Be Subject To The Law Of God (**Romans 8:7**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Savingly Believe On Christ (**John 12:39-40**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Discern Spiritual Things (**I Corinthians 2:14**).
- Man In And Of Himself **Cannot** Please God (**Romans 8:8**).

Lazarus was not only in this condition, **HE WAS HELD IN THIS CONDITION!** He was held by **death**, by the **grave**, and by the **grave-clothes!** **THE UNSAVED INDIVIDUAL IS HELD IN SPIRITUAL DEATH!** What the **unsaved sinner** needs is life, and this is why **Jesus** spoke about **the necessity of a new birth** to **Nicodemus** (**John 3:3, 5, 7**)

② *There Was A Effectual Call That Went Forth To Lazarus:*

It is recorded in **verse 43** that **Jesus** “**cried with a loud voice**” **WITH THE WORD OF CHRIST, THERE WAS THE IMPARTATION OF LIFE!** **Lazarus** could not have heard, unless there was life first imparted! This was followed by a call for **Lazarus** to come; **Lazarus come forth**” All the **saved** are “**partakers of the heavenly calling**” (**Hebrews 3:1**), and are “**the called according to His purpose**” (**Romans 8:28**). It is stated in **verse 44** “**And he that was (past tense) dead**” **HE WAS NO LONGER DEAD! LIFE HAD BEEN IMPARTED BY THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF GOD!** “**And he that was dead came forth**” **LIFE HAVING BEEN IMPARTED, LAZARUS CAME!** **Lazarus** could not and **would not** have ever come, had not life been imparted (**John 5:40; 6:44**) **Lazarus**

did not “*come forth*” in order to obtain life, but as a result and manifestation of **life imparted**, he “*came forth*”

③ ***There Was A Setting Free:***

Jesus said “*Loose him, and let him go*” (**verse 44**). BY THE POWER OF CHRIST, THE HELPLESS SINNER IS SET FREE! THERE IS LIBERTY IN CHRIST! The next time we see **Lazarus** is sitting at a table feasting with **Christ (John 12:1-2)**.

This call that went out to **Lazarus** was **personal**; “*Lazarus*” This call that went out to **Lazarus** was **effectual**; “*And he that was dead came forth*” (**verse 44**). There was the **impartation of life**; “*he that was dead*” THIS PICTURES THE NEW BIRTH, THE PASSING FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE (**Romans 6:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:14**). In this **impartation of life**; **God opens the heart of the sinner**, causing them to give attention to the **Word of God (Acts 16:14)**. **God enlightens the spiritual understanding**, causing them to see and understand the depths of their depravity and their own desperate need of a Savior! **God draws the sinner to Himself (John 6:44)**, causing them to come to Him! The manifestation of **spiritual life imparted** is seen in the fact; “*And he that was dead came forth*” (**verse 44**).
