

RAISING LAZARUS: The resurrection and the life

"God has helped."

John 11

By: David C. Mills

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (John 11:25)

We have just learned in John 10:40 that Jesus had recently escaped the hands of the Jews “and went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.” This was all cumulating during the period conflict.

As the news of Lazarus’ death reached Jesus, He was about eighteen miles from Jerusalem. The next thing we read is somewhat puzzling to our human nature. Once Jesus had heard the news, He chose to do nothing. He almost certainly did not take immediate action in order to allow the circumstances to progress to the point of hopelessness. At the point of absolute despair, the full and complete glory of God would be revealed.

When Jesus had finally decided that it was time to “go into Judea again”, although “reminded” by the disciples of why he left that place (*John 11:8*), His knowledge and understanding once again showed through. And with this, Jesus brought out a very important principle of being in God’s will, or “the light of the

world” as stated in v.9. No matter where we are, if we are in God’s will, we’re in the right place and under His protection.

In verse 15, Jesus makes the statement, “I am glad for your sakes that I was not there”. This brings out the point that in the presence of the Prince of Life no one is ever said to have died. Jesus reminds us of the importance and the criticality that we understand that the whole power to impart, maintain, and restore life, resides in Him. This also verifies that this miracle was not one of a public display, but one by which the disciples would see clearly the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Riddled throughout this chapter and climaxing in v.35 (Jesus Wept) we see the unmatched and vivid example of real humanity, compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus.

It has been said that if Jesus, in verse 43, had not specified that “Lazarus, come forth”, He would have raised all the dead. Nevertheless, Lazarus did come forth and the wonderful and glorious power of our Lord Jesus Christ is once again revealed, as He is the resurrection, and the life of the believer.

Merrill C. Tenney, in his book, *New Testament Survey*, stated that “this act was regarded by Jesus, as a supreme test of faith and as the climactic proof of his power.”

The truth of the matter is simple. Hope is not found in a program or a religion or even within ourselves, as many will teach in today's society, and as I am sure they have throughout the generations. Hope is only found within the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful Savior!

Remember that, when our love has reached its climax, it can only be like a solitary dewdrop trembling on a leaf compared with the copious showers of love that pour continually from the heart of our dear Lord and Master.

- Charles H. Spurgeon

References:

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