

# Signs of the Messiah: Raising the Dead

(John 11:1-45)

## ***The Setting (v. 1-16)***

- Jesus and his disciples have left Jerusalem for the region across the Jordan river known as Batanea because of attempts to arrest Him (10:40)
- During this time, Jesus' friend Lazarus becomes mortally ill
  - Jesus had a close friendship with the entire family, including Lazarus' sisters Mary & Martha (v. 5; see Luke 10:38ff), though Lazarus is only mentioned in John
- When word reached Jesus of the illness, He declared that the sickness would not end in death
  - Pointing out that it will be used to glorify God through the Son
  - And then stays where He is for 2 more days
- When He tells the disciples that they are going to Bethany because of Lazarus, they are skeptical because of the threats to Jesus' safety
- He explains to them that Lazarus has died, and this was for their sake
  - Though they don't understand at first

## ***The Resurrection & Life (v. 17-37)***

- Four days after Lazarus' death, Jesus arrives in Bethany, and is met by Martha
- She shows her faith in Jesus' ability to heal, and even more than that (v. 22)
- Jesus tells her of His intent to resurrect Lazarus
  - Though she seems to think that He means on the Last Day when everyone will be raised
- He corrects her by stating that He is the source of resurrection and life, and asks if she believes Him
- Her response gives the clearest declaration of who Jesus is: The sent Son of God who has come as Messiah to give real life! (v. 27)
- Her sister Mary does not have the same hope, but is too caught up in her own grief
- Jesus shares in her grief, weeping at the death of His friend
  - While the crowd questions Jesus

## ***The Sign (v. 38-45)***

- Upon arriving at the tomb, Jesus calls for the stone blocking it to be moved
  - Martha, still not understanding, comments on the smell because Lazarus has been dead 4 days
- Jesus' timing in all this has been intentional
  - Rabbis taught the spirit of the deceased lingered for 3 days before resting until the resurrection
- Jesus prays aloud for the benefit of the crowd, so that they would believe that He is sent from God His Father
- Then, He called for Lazarus to come out
  - Again, we do not see the miracle, just the consequence, as Lazarus comes out of the tomb still wrapped up in his embalming clothes
- This causes many to believe in Jesus (v. 45)
- But it also causes the Jewish leadership to finalize their plans to kill Him because these signs were so compelling (v. 46-53)
  - And later they planned on killing Lazarus as well (John 12:10)
- All because Jesus showed Himself to be the source of eternal life that can raise the dead, not just on the Last Day, but now

### ***So What?***

- Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who is came into the world to:
  - Usher in the Messianic Age
  - Give us access to God
  - Heal our brokenness
  - Deal with our sinfulness
  - Provide our every need
  - Give us true sight
  - Give us eternal life
- All the signs are there, do we trust Him to be everything He showed Himself to be?

**Meditation Verse:** *John 11:25-26*