

## Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Raising of Lazarus, Part 1

Last time...The Parable of the Unprofitable Servants

The servants that obey their Lord are merely doing as they were commanded...  
obedience is expected of servants

Therefore, we stand before The Lord on His merit (for we have none)

faith  
help  
mercy

This time...the raising of Lazarus from the dead

We will be in John 11

In the chronology of Jesus' ministry, this momentous event follows:

The real story of the rich man (hell) and  
the beggar named Lazarus (Abraham's Bosom/Paradise) in Luke 16  
The parable of the Unprofitable (meritless) Servants in Luke 17:1-9

At the beginning of this passage, Jesus is in Perea, down by the Jordan River

At the end of the passage, Jesus will be back in Perea

In this passage, Jesus will

- go west and up to Bethany, a village on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives...before reach the crest to look down into Jerusalem
- raise from the dead a friend/loved one named Lazarus
  - brother of Mary and Martha
  - NOT the beggar at the gate of the rich man's estate

The passage can be divided into sections by "main players"

v1-16	Jesus and His disciples
v17-34	Jesus, Martha, and Mary
v35-54	Jesus, the Father, Lazarus, and the Jews

v1 Lazarus...Mary...Martha:

Lazarus,  
the brother of Martha and Mary, NOT the beggar at the rich man's gate,  
is sick.

"Lazarus" is a form of Eleazar = "God has helped" or "God my helper"

Martha and Mary we met (before) earlier in this 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Jesus' ministry  
in Luke 10:38-42

v2 Mary which anointed the Lord:

In the English translations of the Textus Receptus/Received Text,  
v2 is in parenthesis...denoting a parenthetical remark by The Author  
(John was inspired to record this Gospel in ~ 95AD)

Here the Holy Spirit tells us that Mary is the woman who,  
future to (after) the events here in John 11,  
anointed the Lord before His death

Matt 26:1-2, 6-13

v3 his sisters sent unto Him:

When Lazarus fell sick, Martha and Mary sent a messenger to Perea to inform

- Jesus...Lord, "supreme authority"
- that Lazarus, whom He loved (*phileo*, brotherly love) is sick

What are the sisters doing?

They are asking Jesus to come and heal their brother; they know He can

v4 not unto death...glory of God...Son of God might be glorified:

When Jesus heard this news via the messenger, He said...said to whom?

1. The messenger, therefore Martha and Mary
2. His disciples

Jesus' statement to the family and to His disciples is that this sickness will serve a  
Divine purpose

This sickness is not unto death...the result of the sickness will not be death

but for the glory of God...the praise, honor, and worship of My Father

that the Son of God might be glorified thereby...

- Jesus is directly proclaiming His Deity to messenger and disciples  
(normally called himself the Son of Man)
- That He would glorified to whom?
  - Before this people
  - But primarily to His disciples

v5 Jesus loved:

The Author states a foundational truth before we get any further into the account –  
Jesus loved/*agapeo-ed* this family of faith (v3, "Lord")

Jesus loved them in a profoundly deeper and broader way than they loved Him  
per their word *phileo* vs Holy Spirit's word *agapeo*

v6-7 he abode two days...Let us go:

Does the Lord know the nature (seriousness) of Lazarus' sickness?

Absolutely!

But what does Jesus do when He receives the news from the messenger?

Nothing.

He did not immediately go to Lazarus to heal him,

as he has done in other instances thus far in His ministry

He did not heal Lazarus from a distance,

as He did in Cana for the son of the nobleman from Capernaum

Does He not care?

No, He deeply cares (v5)

But He is not in a rush...not moved on man's urgency and timing

He moves in His Father's time and purpose

After a "delay" of two days, Jesus tells His disciples

Let us go to Judea again

Now is the time, My Father's time, to go to Bethany and to Lazarus

v8 the Jews of late sought to stone You:

His disciples respond with a statement and a question

Statement: The Jews (Pharisees in Jerusalem) of late (recently, whenever You go to Jerusalem) have tried to stone You

They were eyewitnesses of recent visits there

[John 8:58-59](#)

[John 10:30-33](#)

Question: You want to go there again?

Is it safe to go?

Is it wise to go?

Was fear the reason Jesus "delayed" for 2 days?

Absolutely not

Were the disciples afraid to go back to Jerusalem, thinking it too dangerous?

Methodists

Were the disciples thinking of themselves and perhaps counseling Jesus to think of Self?

Possibly

v9-10 walk in the day...walk in the night:

Jesus Christ came to do the will of His Father, it is what energized Him and fueled His ministry (John 4:34)

He came not to do His will, but to lay down His will

If any man walk in the day...does God's will

he stumbles not...does not get tripped up as he walks by faith and not by sight because he sees the light of this world...he walks in the light, God leads him and directs his steps

But if a man walk in the night...in darkness, is Self-willed/does his own will he stumbles...gets tripped up, will be moved/directed by fear

because there is not light IN him...he is refusing God's spiritual guidance

Ps 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Luke 11:35 **Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.** (counterfeit light)

Jesus (John 1:4) has already taught His disciples

John 8:12 the visit to Jerusalem ending with John 8:58-59

John 9:4-5 the visit to Jerusalem ending with John 10:30-33

Here, Jesus is saying He is doing His Father's will...God's way, God's time Jesus is again setting aside His will (which may have been to immediately

heal Lazarus) for His Father's will, so that v4

He knows His hour is not yet (the Cross), God's time for that which His disciples fear is not now

And when it was His hour (suffering, dying), He did not cower in fear, He walked boldly in the Father's will

Q: Is it evident, crystal-clear, what Jesus is saying?

Why not?

v11-14 sleepeth...awake...do well...dead:

Jesus having addressed, albeit in a thought-provoking way, the issue of timing (God's vs man's) of going to Judea/Bethany, the dialogue between Jesus and His disciples continues

Our friend Lazarus...v5

sleepeth...as Jesus referred to the dead daughter of Jairus in Luke 8:49-55

but I go...now is My time to go

Jesus never did anything too early or too late

that I may awake him out of sleep...raise him from the dead, the Divine purpose spoken of in v4

If he sleep...bodily, physically  
he shall do well...everybody knows sleep is good when you are sick

The disciples misunderstood what Jesus said  
His is high thinking, God's perspective/meaning (spiritual)  
Theirs is low thinking, man's perspective/meaning (physical)

God's thinking (vs man's thinking) regarding death of His own  
(believe/trust Him)

Ps 116:15      Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of his saints

When a child of God dies, he is merely "sleeping" and is going to rise  
again when awoken/resurrected

A change of address, from an earthly address to a heavenly address  
2 Cor 5:1      next "home": a building of God, a house not made with  
hands, eternal in the heavens

Glorious!

The disciples are not on the same page as Jesus...but they **MUST** get on the same  
page as Jesus  
Hence v4 and Jesus being glorified to them!

So, since His disciples are not spiritually discerned and not on the same page with  
Him, He speaks to their level

plainly...bluntly

Jesus most times spoke not bluntly...for a Divine purpose

To get them/us the hearers and learners to

- think about what He is saying
- re-think what we think we know

v15    glad...your sakes...ye may believe:

Now, having spoken on their level, Jesus elevates their thinking

I am glad...glad He was wrong in v4?

No, for He is not wrong

We know not yet the end of the matter as He does

for your sakes...why is Jesus glad that He did not go to Bethany so that Lazarus  
died?

For the sakes of...His disciples

That He, the Son of God, would be glorified by this...to them!

Jesus Christ has come to earth with  
a new covenant to be written on the tables of their hearts  
(Jer 31:31-33)  
a testament of His blood, shed for many for the forgiveness of sin  
(Matt 26:28)  
and to pay the wages of sin – death (Rom 6:23)  
and to defeat him who has the power of death – devil (Heb 2:14)  
and deliver us from the fear of and bondage to death (Heb 2:15)

He is the Foundation of a new work, a new house of God (1 Cor 3:9-16)  
When the Foundation is laid, He will return to the Father  
His disciples/apostles will be the builders of God's Temple on earth,  
the Church, made up of living stones (1 Cor 3:10-11, 1 Peter 2:5)  
These unprofitable (meritless) servants must have absolute unshakeable  
confidence in the Foundation and have no confidence in their  
“unprofitable” flesh (Phil 3:3) if they are to build God's building

How will they have unshakeable confidence in Jesus and none in  
themselves...confidence in His merit only?  
The power of God – the resurrection from the dead  
The only sign Jesus would give the Jews

Evidence of the power of God in Jesus' ministry:  
Widow of Nain's son...who would “sleep again”  
Jairus' daughter...who would “sleep” again  
Lazarus...who would “sleep” again  
Jesus Himself...Who would rise to everlasting life,  
a life He would give to those who “sleep”  
Acts 1:1-3  
Acts 4:33 with great power gave the apostles  
witness of the resurrection of the  
Lord Jesus

There can be NO doubts in the hearts and minds of the disciples/apostles  
They MUST be on the same page as Jesus for them to be useful in His  
building the kingdom of God (Matt 16:18)  
So, the Divine purpose in v4 is to instill this confidence in Jesus'  
disciples...that they would whole-heartedly, unreservedly  
believe/trust their Lord with their lives and with the lives of all  
who will hear them

But...that is still future

v16 Thomas...die with Him:

Getting on the same page with Jesus is not this day  
because Thomas responds with unbelieving sarcasm

“Twin” (with a mindset of Eore and ‘the glass is half empty’) said to the other 11  
(but not to Jesus!),

Sweet.  
Let’s go with Jesus.  
Everybody must get stoned.

Thomas is...doubting, lacking the confidence he must have in Jesus  
He is fearful of the darkness in Jerusalem even though he

- is walking with the Light of the world
- has the evidence of the power of God...  
the widow’s son and Jairus’ daughter

He will remain doubtful until...the risen Lord Jesus gets the last word  
(John 20:19-31)

#### Take-aways

1. v4

True in this circumstance...true in your circumstance!

John 16:33      *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world* (gets the last Word)

1 Cor 10:13      There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*

1 Peter 1:2-9, 13

v7 = John 11:4

Also, things may happen to us for the eternal benefit of someone else watching  
So let’s not be like the spoiled brat in Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory  
who selfishly wanted everything NOW and turned into a blueberry

Rather, seek the Lord with your whole heart to get His eternal perspective  
His perfect time  
His perfect action  
His perfect result

Is 55:8-9

And when you take an “urgent” request to the LORD, remember there will most likely be a time of waiting...until the perfect timing of the all-knowing God Almighty

Our time is not His time...His time is not our time

We are trapped in time...He is not, so He sees all time at the same time, and acts in the perfect time

**1 Chron 22:13**

the hand-off from David to Solomon...

the hand off from the Son of David to His people

clear thinking: the mind of Christ

sober thinking: sound doctrine – the Word of God, the entire counsel

Peace comes with obedience (expected of unprofitable servants)

Obedience requires courage and strength, which come from Him

Obedience is thwarted by fear and discouragement (of antichrist)

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

## 2. death

A defeated enemy (1 Cor 15)

Therefore, Fear not, believe only!

We have a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

We have a promise from God our Father – to awaken us when we “sleep”...

resurrection unto eternal life