

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Raising of Lazarus, Part 2

Last time...A family of faith that Jesus loves is facing a severe trial...a sickness unto death...
and its accompanied testing of their faith

Martha's and Mary's brother Lazarus is critically ill and they sent a messenger to Jesus to
inform Him i.e. to ask Him to come heal Lazarus

When told, Jesus said to the messenger (Martha and Mary)...
and primarily to His disciples...v4

Then Jesus did...nothing.

He waited 2 days...until it was His Father's time for Him to go

The "delay" is for

- the Divine purpose of v4
- the necessary instruction/equipping of His disciples/apostles...
His unprofitable/meritless servants

This time...Jesus arrives at the outskirts of Bethany for private conversations with Martha and
Mary (the 3 of them are the primary characters in this section of the account)

We will be in John 11 again

v17 Jesus came...in the grave 4 days already:

Jesus and His disciples make the 13 mile ascent from the Jordan River Valley to
Bethany

When He and they get to the outskirts of the village, He gets the news that
Lazarus had been dead 4 days already

Questions:

- Found out from whom?
Apparently, Martha had posted a watch outside of the village to
keep an eye out for Jesus
v20
- Burials were immediate, before sundown of the day of death,
so, when had Lazarus died?

The messenger's journey to Jesus would have taken one day
Jesus waited two days after receiving the sisters' messenger
(v4, v6)

Jesus' climb to Bethany would have taken one day

Therefore, Lazarus died (went to sleep) BEFORE Jesus even got the message that Lazarus was sick... perhaps soon after the messenger departed... which He knew (v4, v11) even though neither the messenger nor His disciples knew

- Why are we told how long Lazarus has been in the grave?
Decomposition of the body (dust to dust) begins after the 3rd day

v18-19 nigh unto Jerusalem...many of the Jews:

Coming from the other direction to Bethany were many Jews from Jerusalem
Bethany was about 2 miles from Jerusalem – a winding path up the western slope of Mount of Olives and down the eastern slope

The family of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus must have had some prominence or importance because of the “many” who came from Jerusalem to comfort the sisters

Questions:

- Was the danger to Jesus expressed by His disciples in v8 real?
The Plan of God aside, yes
- Were all these people able to comfort Martha and Mary?
No

v20 Martha...Mary:

As we saw in Luke 11:38-42, Martha and Mary are very different personalities
Martha: take-charge, aggressive, anxious for many things
Mary: sensitive, quiet

In this severe trial, both are grieving intensely

What is Martha doing?

- Waiting...impatiently
fingers drumming and most likely pacing
- Watching, frequently looking out the window for her watchman
- Marching/intercepting, quick to get into action

What is Mary doing?

Waiting quietly

v21-22 said Martha unto Jesus:

Lord...Supreme Authority, Master
a statement of faith

if you had been here...

had you come when we asked you to?

No, considering when Lazarus had died

had you been here when Lazarus got sick

my brother had not died...You would have healed him of the sickness

As He had done innumerable times, Jesus would have healed the sick

Q: Was His presence in her home (been here) required for Him to heal Lazarus?

No...John 4:43-53

But I know...another statement of faith and a subtle suggestion vs a direct request for Jesus to do “whatever”, even in the face of death, given His unique relationship with the Father

v23 Thy brother shall rise again:

In Jesus' mind...v11b

To Martha, a somewhat general statement by Jesus, not a clear declaration of what He was going to do with Martha's suggestion/veiled request

Why general and not specific?

He wants her/His disciples/us to...

1. think...with a right mind regarding the power of God over death
 - the Word of God
 - widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17:22)
 - son of the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:35)
 - man touched by Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:21)
 - His ministry (Who He is)
 - widow of Nain's son
 - Jairus' daughter
2. conduct a heart exam
 - Martha and His disciples: sincerely believe v4?
 - His disciples: sincerely believe v11?

Faith must be tested

v24 Martha saith:

I know...yet another statement of faith

rise again in the resurrection of the last day...

a. according to Scripture

Ps 49:14-15 Like sheep they (the unrighteous in the day of trouble) are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.

Is 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Dan 12:1-3

b. mentioned by Jesus already in His ministry

John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation*

John 6:38-40 *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day*

Luke 14:13-14 *But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just*

But...what about today?

Does Martha believe v4, that today her brother will be raised from the dead by Jesus?

She does not say

So what Jesus says...

to Martha and His disciples

(who need to hear this as much as Martha does)

about resurrection and life

is one of the most profound statements ever spoken

v25-26 Jesus said:

I AM...a clear declaration of His Deity – the Voice in the burning bush (Ex 3)

the resurrection and the life...

I have power over death

I am the Source of Life

he that believeth in Me though he were dead yet shall he live...

he that believes...has faith and confidence, trusts

in Me...My merit and My faith and My help and My mercy

though he were dead...physical death, the 1st death

yet shall he live...be awoken, be raised from the dead, eternal life

whosoever...Jew and/or Gentile, the mystery of the kingdom of God

lives and believes in Me...now in this life, during the “probationary” life

in time/space

shall never die...2nd death, eternal death

In context of the chronology of His ministry:

The Master is profitable, has merit, when it comes to life and death

The servants, those who believe in the Master, are unprofitable,

have no merit, when it comes to life and death

The death of Martha’s brother is not about Lazarus and her

family...it is about Jesus (v4)

Lazarus died that the Son of God would be glorified...

for “the glory of God” that is victory over death

Believest thou this...do both Martha and the disciples believe what the

Living Word has said?

v4, v15b, v25-26

v27 She saith:

Martha responds to Jesus' most profound statement with a radical profession of faith!

Yea, Lord... Yes, Master/Supreme Authority

I believe

- that You are
 - The Christ...the Messiah promised in Scripture
 - The Son of God...Deity
 - (The Messiah is God vs just a man)
- what You said...Your words

And, as such, she trusts that He will do God's perfect will

v28-30 she went her way:

Martha came to Jesus in great distress and high anxiety

She leaves Jesus

- comforted by Jesus...she accepted/received His words/answer regarding v21-22
- with a message from Jesus to send her sister Mary to Him

When Mary, who has been waiting quietly to hear from Jesus, gets His invitation to come to Him, she responds immediately

She goes to the place where Martha spoke with Jesus

He has not gone into town or to their home, but has stayed on the outskirts to have personal conversations with the grief-stricken sisters He loves/*agapeos*

He wants private conversations to comfort them and to strengthen their faith in Him (and that of His disciples!)

Lesson: v3-6 vs v28-29

When we call upon the LORD (in our time), He keeps us waiting until it is His time, the perfect time

When He calls on us (His time is always the perfect time), we must not keep Him waiting

v31-32 The Jews...She goes to the grave...Mary...at His feet:

The Jewish “comforters” from Jerusalem are seemingly more concerned about the well-being of sensitive and quiet Mary than they are of the take-charge aggressive Martha

They did not follow Martha but they did Mary

They thought she was being carried in her grief to the grave of her brother – they were mistaken

Mary goes to...fall at the feet of Jesus

That is where Mary goes!

Past: Luke 11:38-42

Present: here

Future: Matt 26:6-13

Lord: Mary’s confession of faith

If you had been here...exactly what her sister said in v21

They have said the same thing to each other in this severe trial, they are in one accord

And they have said so within the hearing of the “comforters” (v37)

v33-34 Jesus...groaned...troubled:

Jesus saw the pain in Martha’s face and heard it in her words

Now, He sees that same pain in Mary’s face and hears it in her words

When Jesus sees the pain of human suffering, He is...compassionate

He is troubled about

- the consequence of sin – death
- the unbelief of the Jews – who will not make a profession of faith like Martha and Mary
- the inability to have a private conversation with Mary because of all the Jews who followed her

Jesus is a Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief...He will bear our griefs and carry our sorrows

Where have ye laid him:

Rather than having an opportunity to comfort Mary and strengthen her faith as He did with Martha, He asks to be taken to the grave

They said, Lord...who said, who is the “they” that would say “Lord” (profession of faith)?

Mary...and Martha

v37, v39

What can we take away from this section of the account where Jesus, Martha and Mary are the focus?

1. Faith...to stand in every circumstance

Rom 10:17

Jesus Christ is

- Messiah
- God
- Source of Life
- The Lord/Supreme Authority with power/authority over death

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men

1 John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life

2. Comfort...for those who mourn

Can only be found in the presence of Jesus, the Son of God,
the Living Word of God, the Risen Lord

Matt 5:4 **Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted**

2 Cor 1:3-4 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God

1 Cor 14:3 he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort

1 Thes 4:13-18

3. Hope (a certainty based on the promise of God)...victory over death
1 Cor 15:26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death

The battle belongs to the Lord!

[2 Chron 19:2-3](#)

[2 Chron 20:6, 12, 15, 17, 20, 27](#)

God's mercy, help, merit

1 Cor 15:55-57 O death, here *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?
The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.
But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ

Heb 2:14-16 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and
blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that
through death he might destroy him that had the power of
death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear
of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage

[Rev 20:1-6, 11-15](#)

We know the end...God has told us, given us hope

[v25-26](#)

power over death
Source of Life