

LESSON 19: JOHN 11

NOVEMBER 21, 2018

OVERVIEW

- . Overview
- . Events before the miracle – John 11:1-37
- . Events at the time of the miracle – John 11:38-44
- . Events following the miracle – John 11:45-54

OVERVIEW

- . The time and place
 - . This event took place during the final winter of Jesus' earthly life, following his withdrawal across the Jordan (John 10:40)
 - . The event took place in Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, just two miles from Jerusalem
- . The main characters
 - . Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was a beloved friend of Jesus
 - . Their father was Simon "the Leper" (Mark 14:3)
 - . The Mary in this story is not to be confused with the other Mary's mentioned in the gospel, especially Mary Magdalene
 - . Mary and her sister Martha, are mentioned in Luke 10:38-42
 - . Mary is also the one who anointed Jesus' feet with oil in John 12:3
 - . The Gospel's teach us that this family was especially close to Jesus and maybe became his favorite place to retreat to in the months and days leading up to his crucifixion
 - . He had a deep earthly love for all three siblings
- . The threefold significance of the Sign
 - . The raising of Lazarus demonstrated the truth of Jesus' claims as Lord and giver of Life
 - . This Sign is the greatest proof of any claim He has made
 - . The raising of Lazarus anticipated in measure the resurrection at the last day of all who believe in Jesus
 - . It is "in measure" because Lazarus was raised in his same perishable body whereas Christ was raised in an imperishable body, which is what the Christian will be raised in
 - . The resurrection of Lazarus from death to life on this earth symbolizes Christian conversion
 - . The pattern of every true Christian life is that of being "made alive" from a state of being "dead in our transgressions and sins"

EVENTS BEFORE THE MIRACLE – JOHN 11:1-37

- . The message – John 11:1-3
 - . The simple, straight forward message confirms the depth of the relationship Jesus had with this family
 - . It took about a day for the message to be delivered to where Jesus was staying in Trans-Jordan, on the banks of the Jordan, where John had done his baptizing
 - . The message demonstrates the faith they had in Jesus
- . The Lord's reply – John 11:4-6
 - . Jesus' words of encouragement
 - . "This sickness will not result in death . . . it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it"
 - . From verse 14 we know that Jesus knows he's already dead
 - . What He meant by these words is that the end result will mean life for Lazarus and the Sign will be further glorification of the Son
 - . Jesus' decision to wait two days
 - . Most humans, confronted with this situation would have rushed in to action
 - . When people we love are in danger it is right for us to act quickly and decisively
 - . Jesus' decision to wait two days demonstrates that He is following a higher will of His Father, knowing the eventual outcome and the overall impact of waiting the extra days
 - . If we had that type of insight we would do the same
 - . When confronted with a crisis, do we remember to pause to pray and welcome God in to the situation
- . The Lord and His disciples en route to Bethany – John 11:7-10
 - . The disciples objection – John 11:7-8
 - . The disciples were concerned about their overall safety given what happened when they were last there
 - . The disciples could have thought Jesus' decision to delay the return two days could have meant he had concerns about his safety
 - . The Lord's replay to the disciples – John 11:9-15
 - . The Lord's children must walk in God's light to finish God's work
 - . This is a key principle of Christian life, regardless the circumstance
 - . The twelve hours of daylight represent the life span, metered out by God, for each of His children to finish the work He has appointed for them
 - . To walk by day is to walk according to God's will

- . By being obedient to God's will, Jesus is saying no one can hurt Him Until His appointed hour
 - . The only danger, is if He steps out of God's will, thus out of God's light
- . Thomas' response for the disciples – John 11:16
 - . Thomas' willingness to accept the possibility of death, in order to stay with Jesus, is a demonstration of his deep love for Christ
 - . His statement also shows his skepticism and pessimism
- . The arrival of Jesus at Bethany – John 11:17-37
 - . When Jesus arrived in Bethany Lazarus had been dead for four days and already entombed
 - . The family and close friends were all there in deep mourning
 - . When Martha heard Jesus had arrived in town, she told Mary, then ran out to meet Him
 - . Jesus' conversation with Martha – John 11:21-27
 - . Martha begins by revealing her regret that she hadn't summoned Him sooner
 - . Yet, even amidst her grief, she expresses hope for the future
 - . The Lord tells her that Lazarus will rise again
 - . Martha affirms her belief in the Messiah and His eternal promise
 - . Jesus affirms that He is the source of all Life
 - . Jesus knew how important these words would be to Martha after Lazarus was resurrected, which is why He is taking the time to say them to her now
 - . Jesus conversation with Mary – John 11:28-32
 - . Mary's words to Jesus express her regret that they didn't do enough to try to save Lazarus
 - . Jesus is deeply moved and troubled by Mary's grief
 - . His own tears show the depth of His love for Lazarus and all these people
 - . His "troubled spirit" shows the anger He feels towards evil and the power that death holds amongst humans
 - . Jesus wants to know where Lazarus has been laid to rest

EVENTS AT THE TIME OF THE MIRACLE – JOHN 11:38-44

- . Jesus' command and the promise to Martha – John 11:38-40
 - . Martha hesitated when the Lord commanded her to roll the stone away from entrance
 - . Martha was concerned about ceremonial defilement
 - . Martha trusted the Lord but didn't stop to think she might be involved in the act
 - . She was also concerned about what she might see or smell

- . The Lord was gentle with His answer
 - . "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
- . Jesus' communion with God in public – John 11:41-42
 - . Before doing anything Jesus thanked His Father
 - . This was a public reminder that Jesus did nothing apart from His Father and that the power He used came from the Father
 - . It was also a reminder of the divine authority that was given Him
- . Jesus' call of Lazarus from death and the grave – John 11:43-44
 - . "Lazarus, come out!"
 - . With this one call, Lazarus appears at the entrance to the tomb
 - . He was still covered in his burial cloth with wrappings
 - . This moment had to fill all the witnesses with a combination of fear, joy and awe
 - . "Take off the grave clothes and let him go"
 - . Lazarus was fully alive, once again, able to take up his life once again

EVENTS FOLLOWING THE MIRACLE – JOHN 11:45-54

- . The effect of the miracle on the bystanders either softened their hearts and drew them in to belief, or hardened their hearts and made them more determined to get rid of Him
 - . The Sanhedrin met to discuss what to do about this man who was becoming increasingly more powerful amongst the people
 - . One of their concerns was that the Romans would not put up with this and they would all lose their place and their nation
 - . Then Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, rose to say it was better to get rid of one person, regardless of guilt or innocence, in order to save a nation
 - . Little did Caiaphas realize the prophetic nature of his words
- . Jesus withdraws to the desert – John 11:54
 - . Jesus knew His time was near, but it must be on God's timing, so He withdrew back to the desert

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018 – JOHN 12