

Jesus Displays His Passion and Power

John 11.28-45

Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but He still displayed His (and therefore God's) heart for humans living with the pain of death, and His unwavering desire for all to believe in Him and live! Many who saw the miracle that day believed. Jesus' power still gives life today.

The Narrative

- Jesus sees sisters and mourners weeping; weeps with them (28-36)
- Couldn't Jesus have healed Lazarus? Why didn't He? (37)
- Against Martha's wishes, Jesus has tomb opened (38-41a)
- Jesus prays aloud so observers will believe in Him (41b-42)
- Jesus raises Lazarus, and many Jews believe in Him (43-45)

Deity on Display!

- God's heart grieves for those in the prison of sin (33-36, 38)
- God alone knows why He chooses to heal or not (37, 40-42, 45)
- The creator of life has the power to give life (43-44)
- Bodily resurrection is the believer's future hope!
Job 19.25-26; Mt. 27.52-53; Lk. 24.38-43; Jn. 20.20, 26-29; 1 Thess. 4.13-18



1. The narrative shifts from Martha to Mary in John 11.28. When she sees Jesus, she says the same thing Martha said to Him (21, 32). But the spotlight turns to Jesus in the midst of all the mourners. The text says that He was “deeply moved in spirit” and “troubled” (33), and “deeply moved within” (38). Curiously, the Greek word translated “deeply moved” (ἐμβριμάομαι, *embrimaomai*) has a basic meaning of an expression of anger. While Jesus obviously was not angry at those who mourned, what might have aroused Jesus' ‘anger’ at this scene? What (and who) is behind misery and death? How would you describe the combination of emotions in Jesus at this moment?
2. John 11.35 reads simply, “Jesus wept.” A better rendering might be “Jesus burst into tears” – to shed tears because of sadness, rage, or pain. In our modern reserve, we might think of Jesus gently wiping a tear from His eye, but it was much deeper than this. For a good idea of what it might have been like, see the seventh episode, “The Last Sign,” from Season Four of *The Chosen*.
3. John 11.41-42 tell us something about the value of corporate prayer. While it is true that prayer is talking to God (and no one else) – it is also true that when we pray out loud, and others can ‘listen in,’ there is a ‘secondary value’ to our prayers. How did Jesus want those who heard His prayer to benefit from it? Have you ever benefitted from listening to the prayers of others? How?
4. When Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11.25), He communicated a compound truth. Resurrection speaks of the *physical* rising from the dead. (When you die, *what* dies?) The life refers to *spiritual* life, which is eternal, and is received the moment a person believes. That is why Jesus said that a person “who lives and believes in Me will never die” (26). What Jesus demonstrated in His raising of Lazarus was this physical, bodily resurrection. For other teaching about this future bodily resurrection of all who believe, see: Job 19.25-26; Daniel 12.2; Matthew 27.52-53; Luke 24.38-43; John 5.21, 25-26, 28-29; 20.20, 26-29; 1 Corinthians 15.12-58; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; Revelation 20.4-5.