

# Miracle Worker

Part Thirteen: *Lazarus*

August 27, 2023

The raising of Lazarus from the dead was not Jesus' last miracle, but it was certainly the miracle that aroused the most response from both His followers and His enemies. Jesus' primary purpose for raising Lazarus from the dead was not to restore his life or comfort his sisters. It was so that He and the Father would be glorified (John 11:4, 40). The resurrection of Lazarus honored Christ in three ways: it showed His deity (Vs. 25-27); it strengthened His disciple's faith (Vs. 15); and it led to His cross (Vs. 53).

## Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead – John 11:1-53

**1<sup>st</sup> – John tells us about the critical man.**

**Vs. 1-2**

John begins chapter eleven with a blunt sentence, *“A man named Lazarus was sick.”* Lazarus was a popular name in the first century. It is a shortened form of the Hebrew name Eleazar, which means *“helped by God.”*

**2<sup>nd</sup> – John tells us about the concerned sisters.**

**Vs. 3-6**

In desperation, Lazarus' sisters sent a simple message to Jesus stating, *“Lord, your dear friend is very sick.”* But Jesus didn't rush to Bethany to heal His dear friend. Instead, the Lord continued preaching in Perea and told His disciples that Lazarus' sickness would bring God glory.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – John tells us about the cautious disciples.**

**Vs. 7-16**

After waiting two days, Jesus told His disciples it was time to travel to Bethany to see Lazarus, but the disciples reminded Jesus that the people in Judea wanted to kill Him (John 10:30). The Lord replied with a Jewish proverb about how God controls the hours in the day and in the night. So, God is in control of when His Son's earthly ministry will end (John 7:30; 8:20; 12:35-36).

**4<sup>th</sup> – John tells us about the caring commander.**

**Vs. 17-44**

Upon arriving in Bethany - a village about two miles from Jerusalem, Jesus was immediately notified by a servant that His friend Lazarus was dead. In fact, Lazarus had been dead and buried for four days. Lazarus died on the day Jesus was informed of his sickness.

• **First, Jesus claimed He could resurrect the dead.**

**Vs. 20-26**

In claiming to be the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus was claiming to have power over life and death. Jesus made two promises to those who believe in Him: One, you will live again even if you die physically. Two, you will never die spiritually.

• **Next, Jesus proved He could resurrect the dead.**

**Vs. 32-44**

Jesus literally said, *“Lazarus! Here! Outside!”* and instantly Lazarus was alive again and walking awkwardly out of the tomb in grave clothes. Some people fainted, others ran in terror, and some just fell to their knees in awe of Jesus' power. Even the disciples who had witnessed Jesus do amazing things were probably dumbstruck.

This miracle caused many people to believe in Jesus, which set up His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday a few days later (Vs. 45). But this miracle also caused the scribes and Pharisees to move up their plan to execute Christ (Vs. 46-53). It was time to deal with the Miracle Worker.

## ***Takeaways from John 11...***

### **1. Jesus is the Son of God.**

Jesus said the purpose behind raising Lazarus from the dead was *“for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory”* (John 11:4). The raising of Lazarus from the dead clearly proved that Jesus was who He claimed to be, and He had the power to do anything!

### **2. Jesus has the power over death.**

Jesus claimed to have the power to resurrect the dead, and He proved His claim throughout His earthly ministry. He raised a widow’s son, Jairus’ daughter, and Lazarus from the dead, and He raised Himself from the dead (John 2:19; 10:17-18)!

### **3. Jesus gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.**

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus promised eternal life to all who believe in Him for salvation (John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 10:27-29; 11:20-26). John tells us at the end of his Gospel that he told us about Jesus’ miracles so we will believe in Him and have life in His name (John 20:30-31).