

A Study of John's Gospel

Lesson 15: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the dead (11:30-57)

Jesus was across the Jordan (10:40) where many believed when He was told that His good friend Lazarus was sick. Jesus knew that Lazarus was seriously ill and would die but He chooses to stay where he was for two more days. Jesus then travels to Bethany where He first sees Martha and Mary (Lazarus' two sisters). He then raises Lazarus from the dead. The Jews continue to find fault with what Jesus does and now plot to kill Him.

"Meeting with Mary" (11:28-32)

Mary is called to come out to see Jesus who has not yet come into Bethany. She repeats the same phrase that Martha already had regarding how Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had gotten there in time. Note who was with Mary at this time to console her over the death of Lazarus. They follow her to where Jesus was, believing that she was going to the tomb.

"Raising Lazarus from the Dead" (11:33-44)

In this portion of the passage, we see Jesus' emotions when He observes Mary and Martha mourning the loss of their brother. We also see Jesus's reaction to the Jews when He observes their "expressions of sorrow". The Jews question why Jesus' power was not able to save Lazarus from dying. After Jesus has all of Lazarus family and friends gathered around the tomb, He asks that they roll away the stone. Martha questions Jesus' action since Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days and has begun to decay. He prays to His Father and commands Lazarus to come forth. Lazarus comes forth from the grave still wrapped in grave cloth.

"The Jews Plot to Kill Jesus" (11:45-53)

The result of Jesus raising Lazarus was that many of the Jews believed on Him. Others realized that Jesus would continue to build a following and were becoming more concerned about His teachings and miracles performed. These Jews went to the Pharisees and told them what had occurred. The Chief Priests and Pharisees call a meeting of the Sanhedrin. The high priest, Caiaphas, prophesies that Jesus will die for the Jewish nation and the scattered children of God. At this point, they plot to kill Jesus.

"Jesus withdraws to village of Ephraim" (11:54-57)

It is not yet Jesus' time to be offered up so He withdraws to a region near the wilderness to a city called Ephraim. There He stays with His disciples. As the time for the Passover draws near, many of the Jews go up to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing. They begin to look for Jesus and even are given orders by the Chief Priests and Pharisees that anyone that finds Him is to report it so that He can be arrested.

Questions:

1. Why would Martha have told Mary "secretly" that Jesus was there(28, 31)?
2. What are the emotions that Jesus had when He saw Mary and Martha? When He saw the Jews?
3. What does Jesus ask them to do when He approaches the tomb(39)?
4. What is Martha's reaction to Jesus' intention to raise Lazarus (39)? How does this compare with her faith expressed in vs. 22, 24.?
5. Why did Jesus pray aloud before the open tomb (41,42)?
6. Describe two reactions to the raising of Lazarus (45, 46)?
7. What is the outcome of the meeting of the Sanhedrin?