Lazarus

John 11:1-53

1. Intro
   1. Bible Stories: Death to Life
   2. Last Week: the valley of dry bones, we are living in fulfillment of this prophecy
   3. This week: Lazarus raised from the dead
   4. Who: Lazarus, friend of Jesus, where Jesus stayed when coming to Jerusalem
   5. Why:
      1. Jesus was preparing His disciples for that which is to come for them, and what we look back on: Resurrection
      2. This is a miraculous event that has definite meaning.
   6. Put yourself there...Lazarus come forth!
2. Text
   1. Verses 1-4: Jesus prophecies to the temporary nature of His friends death
   2. Verses 5-16:
      1. Jesus explains the situation
      2. Tells His disciples plainly about the death
      3. But also says it is good, because He is about to show His power!
   3. Verses 17-27
      1. Verses 25-26: Jesus explains a theological truth, and is about to demonstrate that truth in the midst of their grief.
      2. The question in 26 is the question of the day: Do you believe this?
   4. Verses 28-37
      1. Verse 35: Jesus wept
         1. The greek word here is one that references a quiet tear, not a loud wailing
         2. Jesus was hurting, but He was not devastated
      2. Why? Verse 33: He was deeply moved and greatly troubled
      3. Why? His friend had died, the humanity of Christ is on display
      4. Loss hurts, even when you know there is a better outcome than you could actually imagine.
   5. Verses 38-44
      1. Jesus told them to move the stone, but this was against the interpretation of Jewish law they were living under
      2. According to the Talmudists, it was forbidden to open a grave after the stone was placed upon it. Besides other dangers, they were apprehensive of legal impurity by contact with the dead. Hence they avoided coming nearer a grave than four cubits. But He who touched the leper, and the bier of the widow of Nain's son, rises here also above these Judaic memorials of evils, every one of which He had come to roll away. Observe here what our Lord did Himself, and what He made others do. As Elijah himself repaired the altar on Carmel, arranged the wood, cut the victim, and placed the pieces on the fuel, but made the by-standers fill the surrounding trench with water, that no suspicion might arise of fire having been secretly applied to the pile ( 1Ki 18:30-35 ); so our Lord would let the most skeptical see that, without laying a hand on the stone that covered His friend, He could recall him to life. But what could be done by human hand He orders to be done, reserving only to Himself what transcended the ability of all creatures.
   6. Verses 45-53
      1. This little event changed the course of the ministry of Christ
      2. Attention was brought to Jesus being powerful to raise Lazarus
      3. This was proclaimed by the friends and the enemies of God
      4. Why? Because Lazarus was dead and then he wasn’t
3. Point
   1. **The Commanding Voice of Christ**
      1. Jesus Commanded a dead man, Lazarus, to walk from the tomb.
      2. Its possible that, If He had not mentioned Lazarus specifically, all the graves would have emptied!
      3. Jesus commands, and even the dead respond
      4. Jesus speaks:
         1. To a fig tree, and it dies Matthew 21:19
         2. To a fever, and it left Peter’s mother in law: Luke 4:39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.
         3. To a storm, and it obeys Matthew 8: 24-27
         4. To demons in a man: and they are cast into a heard of pigs: Mark 5:8-10
         5. To that which was without form and void, and creation happens: John 1, Col 1:16
         6. To those gathered around the cross, and it was finished: John 19:28-30
      5. His commanding voice is present today as well, and that Spirit lives inside the believer
      6. Sovereign God Commands!
   2. **The Majority missed the Message**
      1. No one thought Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, they didn’t think about it.
      2. They missed the message then, and we miss it sometimes today:
         1. don’t limit the power of God…and miss the message
         2. Don’t refuse to believe…and miss the message
         3. Don’t mis-apply this and put yourself back at the center of this message searching for a blessing…and miss the message
      3. They did believe He could heal the sick, but they never considered Lazarus could be raised from the dead.
      4. Abraham believed Isaac could have been raised, so our faith needs to grow to trust like Abraham!

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,

of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

* + 1. Sovereign God wants us to understand Hid message.
  1. **The Lord is never Late**
     1. It is an impossibility to consider LORDSHIP and LATE in the same sentence.
     2. Lord’s don’t answer to a time clock.
     3. Jesus arrived in His intended time, for His intended purpose.
     4. His glory was about to be revealed to His disciples and to those who witnessed the act.
     5. There was a mixed reaction: Verse 45-46
        1. Many believed IN HIM
        2. Some went and TOLD ON HIM
     6. The actions of those who believed carried the message of messiah
     7. but…the actions of the enemies of God also rightly proclaimed the gospel.
        1. They went and told the Pharisees…that JESUS JUST RAISED LAZARUS!
        2. The High Priest then prophesied…albeit against his will…the JESUS WOULD DIE FOR THE NATION
     8. God is never late
     9. He has never failed
     10. He has never lost a battle
     11. Impossible doesn’t stop God
     12. He is not finished, and He began this work in YOU!
         1. This same power is now at work in us
         2. This power is not temporary, and not based upon man

1. Close