

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 11:

vs. 1-44

Jesus receives word that Lazarus is sick. Jesus informs that the end result of Lazarus' sickness will not be death, but will bring glory to God and to God's Son. Jesus remained where He was for 2 more days, before He began to head for Bethany. When He began to go, His disciples tried to discourage Him, feeling that return to that area would only lead to death. Jesus speaks to them and tells them that as long as they follow God, who gives light, they have no reason to fear.

Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus is sleeping and that He needs to go and wake him. When the disciples fail to understand, Jesus makes it clear that Lazarus has died and that all which is about to happen will help the disciples to grow in their faith.

When they arrive, they find that Lazarus has been dead for 4 days already. The fact that the miracle is so close to Jerusalem and will be viewed by so many, demonstrates why this raising of Lazarus is considered to be the climax of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus is greeted by Lazarus' 2 sisters, as they each arrive independently. Both are convinced that Jesus could have prevented the death of their brother. To Martha, Jesus states, that He is the resurrection and the life and the one believing on Him would never die but have life. Here, He is referring to the fact that man will not die a spiritual death but will enjoy eternal life if they believe. Jesus, shows His compassion as He sheds tears during this event.

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, He commands for it to be opened. Martha, being skeptical, tries to discourage Him, with reason, citing that the body in this state of decay will have a horrendous odor. Upon Jesus' insistence, the stone is removed. Jesus prays to God, thanking Him for hearing His prayer and stating that the prayer was so the people might believe that God had sent Him. Jesus then calls for Lazarus to come forth, which he does.

vs. 45-57

Being as close to Jerusalem, as Bethany is, many had come to share in the time of mourning with Mary and Martha, as was the custom. They were witnesses to the resurrection of Lazarus by the power of Christ and many believe. Others are quick to report this latest event to the Pharisees.

The Sanhedrin is concerned about their loss of position. Caiaphas speaks up and suggests that it would be more beneficial to do away with Christ (one man), than for all of them to lose their position and threaten the Hebrew nation. This becomes the consensus of the group and they begin to plot to take the life of Jesus. Jesus moves more cautiously and the chief priests and Pharisees begin to let the word out, that if anyone knew where Jesus was, they were to report it so that Jesus could be dealt with.

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 12:

vs. 1-11

Jesus returns to Bethany. This is the week of His death. Jesus goes to the house where Lazarus lived and enjoyed a dinner given in His honor. During the dinner, Mary anoints Him and pour perfume on His feet and wipes them with her hair.

Judas objects to the whole thing and suggests that the perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor. Actually, he wasn't concerned about the poor, but being in charge of the money, planned to make a little "extra". Jesus rebukes Judas and says that this anointing is to prepare Him for burial. He states that the time that they have left together is brief.

When word got out where Jesus was, people thronged to see Him. Not only to see Him, but also to see the one He had raised. When the chief priests heard of it, they decided that it was going to be necessary to have Lazarus killed in addition to Jesus. The reason being, that many people were believing in Jesus because of the raising of Lazarus.

vs. 12-19

ON Sunday (Palm Sunday), Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He was greeted by people throwing palm branches and cloak ahead of Him to soften the ride, while they shouted praise to Him. The disciples were confused initially, but after Jesus was resurrected they began to understand. People were coming out to see Him because of the raising of Lazarus, which served to infuriate the Pharisees even more.

vs. 20-36

Greeks who had accepted Judaism, came to Philip to see if he would arrange for them to see Jesus.

Jesus states that the time has come for Him to be glorified. He speaks of the grain of wheat. This represents His death and how through His death and resurrection, many would have life. These would only have life, if they gave up everything to serve Him. Jesus prays for God to glorify His own name. God then spoke, saying, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." Jesus stated that the voice was for the benefit of the ones gathered and warns them of the coming judgement and victory over Satan. He also declares that by being raised up (on a cross), He would draw men to Him. Jesus continues to urge them to follow Him and God while they have the opportunity, rather than giving into doubt, and doing nothing.

vs. 37-50

Many still failed to believe, even after all that Jesus had done. This fulfilled, what God had spoken through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 53:1 and 6:10. He refers to the people as having rejected God's message and being unable to accept that message now, due to unbelief. There were others, even among the leaders, who did believe in Him, but failed to admit it for they were more concerned with acceptance from their peers and acceptance from God.

Jesus states that He has come to declare God's message and that those who believe in Him are also showing and demonstrating their belief in God. God's message gives hope and direction to mankind. Those who reject His message will be judged by the Father, Himself.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 11:

1. Who was sick and who were his sisters?
2. What does Jesus say the purpose of the mans sickness, is?
3. What happened to the man, according to verse 14?
4. What did Martha say to Jesus, as she went out to greet Him in verses 21 & 22?
5. What two things did Jesus teach He was, according to verse 25?
6. What did Mary do and say when she reached Jesus?
7. What did Jesus do following the invitation to come and see where Lazarus was laid?
8. Why did Martha not want to obey Jesus, concerning opening the tomb?
9. What happened when Jesus called for Lazarus to come out?
10. What were the 2 responses by those who had seen what Jesus had done?
11. What did Caiaphas say was better?
12. What orders had the chief priests and Pharisees given?

BONUS:

1. How does the raising of Lazarus affect our belief in Jesus' second coming and eternal life?
2. Give ways that people today, respond to God and His Word, like the leaders responded to Jesus.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 12:

1. What did Mary do, as she anointed Jesus? (see verse 3)
2. Why did Judas object to this action and how did Jesus respond?
3. Why did the chief priests make plans to kill Lazarus?
4. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem?
5. How did the people respond?
6. Why did people go out to see Jesus?
7. What did the Greeks at the feast, want from Philip?
8. What is the result for the one who hates his life in this world?
9. What came from heaven, when Jesus said, "Father, glorify your name"?
10. What will Jesus do, when He is lifted up?
11. According to verse 38, what was the reason that some would not believe?
12. What did many of the leaders love more than praise from God?
13. Where did Jesus receive His message, according to verse 49?

BONUS:

1. How can Christians today, honor and praise Christ, as Mary and those who greeted Him as He entered Jerusalem?
2. What are things that people love today, more than the praise of God?
3. What is so important about Jesus' message being from God?