

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 11:1-16

INTRODUCTION: JESUS ENCOUNTERS CRUCIAL EVENTS IN JERUSALEM

Lazarus becomes ill and dies.

If ever someone says that Jesus does not have compassion for the ones that he loves, then come to this chapter and read for yourself how Jesus feels about those that he loves.

Jesus loved us first, that is why we can also love him.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

In this chapter we shall see the love of the Lord, extending beyond the grave.

The Lord does not just love us in life, but he also loves us in death.

The bible says that death has no sting for the righteous, why? Because Jesus has concurred death the bible says.

Our death is only a physically one in this life and not a spiritual one. But with the spiritual life will also come a new spiritual body. An "incorruptible body" that will know no sin.

A body that will live on forever to eternity with the Lord in our presence. That's how much Jesus loves the ones that love him.

- Think about it for a minute. Is that not what you would want, when you "die" one day. For the Lord to love you then also.

Let's begin.....in our text this morning of John 11:1-16.

John 11:1-16

¹ Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

1. Jesus had been preaching in the villages beyond the Jordon, probably in Perea which was on the East side across the river Jordon in a straight line from Jerusalem.
2. It was probably from here that he had received the news of Lazarus's sickness.
3. Jesus did not leave immediately, but waited for two days before returning to Judea.
4. He knew Lazarus would be dead when he arrived in Bethany, but this was purposeful in connection with the great miracle that he was to perform. It was

here in **Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha** where Lazarus lay sick.

5. The village of Bethany, was located approximately two miles east of Jerusalem on the road to Jericho. It was near enough to Jerusalem to be in danger but far enough away as to not attract attention.

² (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

1. The scriptures are very specific when talking about Mary and Martha, because there were several Mary and Martha in the bible who also took care and loved Jesus.
2. But here in the scriptures it tells us that this Mary.... **that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.**
3. This helps us to decipher which persons the scripture are talking about, and in this case it was those two ladies who were the faithful believers of Jesus, and very close friends of his. Especially Lazarus.
4. Jesus had spent much time in their own house eating and fellow shipping with the family, and they were dear to him.
5. However in this account it was not the Mary of the following scriptures below.

Matthew 26:7 ⁷ There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

Mark 14:3 ³ And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

Luke 7:37-38 ³⁷ And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, ³⁸ And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

6. But of the following scriptures is the Mary as we shall see. This is the preparation to Jesus burial unlike the other occasions.

John 12:1-7

1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

² There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

³ Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

⁷ Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

7. The essence of this requisition by the scriptures which we see in the brackets, of verse 2 of our text was to remind us of who that Mary and Martha was, and to identify their brother Lazarus as the one who Jesus loved, and who now lay sick unto death.

³ Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

1. Without communications no understanding can be achieved.
2. In this case there were no long distances calls placed in a hurry and any messages had to be sent by a runner, either on horseback or by Camel.
3. Lazarus had already been sick a few days when his sisters had dispatched an urgent message to the one that they could trust and the one that they knew could help them. Remember the situation they were in. Nothing was about to happen fast at all.
4. When one of our families is sick we also want to know, because there is always a sense that we can help in a time of need.
5. It was also natural that Mary and Martha then wanted Jesus to know Lazarus was sick, because he was a close as family to him an as a dear friend that Jesus loved.
6. So of course Jesus wanted to know.

⁴ When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

1. Jesus knew Lazarus was sick even before news came to him, because the Lord is God, and there he is all knowing.
2. But the reality is, that Jesus wanted them to call for him. He wanted Mary and Martha to trust him. Just as Jesus wants us to trust him. He wants us to call on him in a time of need, because it shows that we trust him faith.
3. If we know Jesus as our Savior, then no sickness is unto death. Yes we may die physically but we don't die spiritually. **This sickness is not unto death.**
4. This was going to be a time of testing, and this was going to be a time of miracles.
5. This was going to test the faith of not just Mary and Martha, but this was going to show the power of Gods glory to all the unbelievers as well as the believers, such

as his very own disciples. By this miracle all would know that Jesus is God. As the Lord said, in this verse 4. **that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.**

5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

1. This verse tells us that this family; like all families in Christ are loved by Jesus.
 2. Jesus is not just interested about individuals being saved; he is interested in whole families being saved.
 3. **Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.** The whole family believed in Jesus and so he loved them all.
- Satan on the other hand does not like family. He is against families, that's why he is interested in sodomites.

Romans 1:27 ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

- No procreation. This is in direct opposition to Gods command to go forth and multiply.

Genesis 1:27-29 ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- Satan is always in direct opposition to God.

6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

1. Jesus knew that Lazarus would die. But he also knew it was not unto death.
2. Jesus knew that he had to wait for all hope to disappear from mans perspective, so that all hope could be placed on him directly.
3. He would delay so that no man could say Lazarus was not dead.
4. He had to wait so that the miracle he would perform could in no way be challenged.
5. But, even as Jesus waited he still preached in the villages the word of the Lord. No time could be wasted there either.

7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

1. At the appointed time Jesus comes.
2. He appointed the time for Lazarus and he will appoint the time for us also.
3. Jesus return will be at the appointed time when God the Father will send His Son, to deal with all death.
4. It was only after Lazarus was dead did Jesus say to his disciples let us go into Judea again.

5. This was a place where Jesus had already preached, and now this was going to be the place where he would reveal the greatest miracle over death, and that would be life.

⁸ His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

1. If you going to follow Jesus you had better count the cost.
2. It may cost you everything even your life.
3. At what cost would you ever deny the Lord?
4. You may want to be thankful that we are never challenged with that point?

⁹ Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

1. Day means the knowledge of Gods will.
2. Whereas night means the absence of his will.
3. When you walk in the light of day you will not stumble Jesus says.
4. The question Jesus is thus asking them? Is this. Even if they want to kill us in Judea will you still follow me?

¹⁰ But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

1. Without God as your light you will stumble.
2. Because without God you are walking in the night of darkness, without any light.
3. [Psalm 119:105](#) Thy **word is a lamp** unto my feet, and **a** light unto my path.
4. In other words Jesus says, you don't have to follow if you don't want to, but look at the consequence of not doing so. Your choice, he is not going to force you.

¹¹ These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

1. As trying to explain to his disciples, Jesus told them that Lazarus was sleeping. Because that is what happens when we die. The bible speaks of sleeping. (We will sleep in Jesus).
2. What Jesus was trying to tell them is exactly that.
3. That Lazarus was safe and sleeping in Jesus.
4. **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth.**
5. **but I go,**
6. **that I may awake him out of sleep.**
7. It is Jesus who will wake us up out of our sleep when we die. He is our resurrection. He will resurrect us when we die.

- Did the disciples understand that? No.

¹² Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

1. Instead they told Jesus, well if he is sleeping and he is sick, then that is good for him.
2. They did not understand Jesus was saying that he had died in the physical.

3. And that he was sleeping in the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. *(some will be alive when Jesus returns here)*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 ¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him**. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord **shall not prevent** *(precede)* **them which are asleep**. *(here we see Jesus brings them with him. They were with him, they were not in the grave waiting?)*

4. The bible talks of sleeping in Jesus, just like Lazarus he is asleep Jesus said.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

1. Jesus said that Lazarus death was only like he was sleeping. It was not a permanent thing.
 2. The disciples truly thought that he was only asleep and not dead.
- The apostle Paul also explained this concept of death to the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 15:53-55 ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ **So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption**, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

3. It is only when **this corruptible shall have put on incorruption**, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
4. In other words we have to die physically to sleep in Jesus spiritually.
5. Jesus also told the thief on the cross **“this day you will be with me in paradise”**.

Luke 23:43 ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

6. In other words how can you be in the grave waiting for Jesus, if Jesus said to the thief today shalt thou be with me in paradise.
 7. The 7th day Adventists teach about soul sleep Jesus did not teach that.
- You cannot apply time to eternity.
- The lamb was slain before the foundation of the world. Then I saw.....Rev 7
- Past present and future are all the same.....but there is an ordered sequence of events. First this happened, then this etc...
- When you sleep, you will wake up at the resurrection.

- We are not conscious of things taking place in time, but we are conscious of what is taking place in eternity.
- The heaven that exists now is not the heaven of all eternity. There will be a new heaven and a new earth after the millennial reign of Christ. Satan has access to this current heaven (Job & Zachariah), but the new heaven he won't have access to it.
- When Steven was martyred, he saw the Lord coming to take him.....Jesus was at that stage not sitting but standing on the right hand side of His Father in heaven.

Acts 7:60 ⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, **he fell asleep.**

Acts 7:55 ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing on the right hand of God,**

⁵⁶ And said, **Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**

- The last thing Stephen saw was Jesus standing and coming for him.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

1. The reason why Jesus said to the disciples he was glad that he was not there when Lazarus was still alive, is that Jesus may just have healed him, and then they would not see the miracle which was about to happen.
2. Jesus wanted to show them the power of the resurrection to come. He was going to show his power to them and to others over death. **to the intent ye may believe.**
3. He wanted them to believe that he had the power over death, proving again without a doubt that he is God.

16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

1. Poor Thomas he still had no idea.
 2. Was his IQ that low?
 3. Had he believed anything at this point?
 4. There are still many Thomases around. Always filled with doubt, and always filled with questions. But failing to simply believe.
- What is your reaction to the Lord?

PRAYER.....CLOSE