

Raising Lazarus (Sermon #3) John 11:38-44
"A Miracle to be Thankful For"

John 11:38–44 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, **"Take away the stone."**

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, **"Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"** ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, **"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."**

⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, **"Lazarus, come forth!"** ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **"Loose him, and let him go."**

One of the main things we have to be thankful for as believers is our salvation, which includes resurrection, life instead of death ... in this passage we see the connection Thanksgiving, the Lord's Supper and Life from the dead -

I. Lazarus was dead –

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, **"Take away the stone."** Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." John 11:38–39 (NKJV)

In John chapter 6 Jesus referred to Himself as "Food indeed." Lazarus, as FAR as being dead is concerned you could say he was DEAD INDEED!

As coroner in the Wizard of Oz said of the Wicked witch, you could also say about Lazarus, "he's not only merely dead. he's really most sincerely dead."

Martha's words - **“Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” John 11:39**

Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. John 11: 39 (KJV 1900)

Martha's words were words of KNOWLEDGE about death ... and they were in context a protest against Jesus' removing the STONE!

1. *People were more knowledgeable of death in those days – They knew how quickly a body would start stinking because they did not have methods as we do today of refrigeration if the body is not cremated or buried within 48 hours. Even when they buried a body it was not in the kind of airtight coffins we can use.*

2. *Here Martha knew theological truth, she believed Jesus, but she certainly was not expecting a resurrection –*

A. *Maybe she should have? Jesus had raised others -*

¹⁸ While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.” ¹⁹ So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples...

²³ When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, ²⁴ He said to them, **“Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶ And the report of this went out into all that land. Matthew 9:18-19 & :23–26 (NKJV)**

¹¹ Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. ¹² And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, **“Do not weep.” ¹⁴ Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, **“Young man, I say to you, arise.”** ¹⁵ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to**

his mother. ¹⁶ Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” Luke 7:11–16 (NKJV)

B. Yet, the others we know He raised, they had not been dead and buried for days –

II. Jesus rebuked Martha’s stench comment, with His own God’s glory reference –

⁴⁰ **Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” John 11:40 (NKJV)**

1. This is a reference to an earlier conversation Jesus had with Martha – Yet, we do not read this specifically addressed to Martha, but to the disciples we read Jesus said –

⁴ **When Jesus heard *that*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” John 11:4 (NKJV)**

My explanation of this is John’s Gospel gives us a summary, we know Jesus spoke about God’s and His glory to His disciples, we can assume, and should without doubt, assume he also said the same to Martha ...

What Jesus did say to Martha, indicates He COMMUNICATED at the very least the possibility of raising Lazarus, not at the end of time, but that very day, four days after he (Lazarus) had died.

2. This said, Jesus is giving Martha a friendly rebuke for walking by SIGHT, and maybe potential SMELL, but not by the HEARING of God’s Word and Faith –

⁷ **For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)**

3. The glory they would see, when Lazarus rose, would smell like a garden full of roses!

III. People there were obedient to Jesus' command –

³⁹ Jesus said, **“Take away the stone.”**

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying... John 11:41 (NKJV)

IV. Jesus Thanked God ...

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, **“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.”** John 11:41–42 (NKJV)

1. *Jesus Thanks God (the Father) for hearing Him - :41 B*

2. *This was nothing unusual or strange for Jesus, God ALWAYS heard Him, but He prays (out loud) for the benefit of those around –*

⁴² **And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.”** John 11:42 (NKJV)

Raising Lazarus was meant to be a FAITH Builder ...

... that they may believe that You sent Me.” John 11:42 (NKJV)

V. The Voice of God's Son –

⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come forth!”** ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **“Loose him, and let him go.”** John 11:43–44 (NKJV)

1. *The was evidence / proof of what Jesus had said before –*

²⁴ **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the**

voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. **John 5:24–30 (NKJV)**

A. *Spiritual hearing of Christ's Word, the Word of Life, God's Word results in everlasting life – :24*

B. *The dead, the spiritually dead, hear Christ's Voice, and are made spiritually alive –*

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63 (NKJV)

C. *John 5:26 – the Son / like the Father has LIFE in Himself ...*

D. *Jesus' Voice will one day raise even the wicked dead for judgment –*

²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John 5:28-29 (NKJV)

2. *No longer sick, no longer dead, Lazarus had risen from the dead!*

VI. *Thanking God, thanking Jesus –*

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

1. *The Greek word Jesus uses in this verse translated “thank” is eucharisto!*

2. *Yes, it is the same word that we call eucharist, used for the Lord's Supper*

3. *Different Names for the SAME thing:*

A. *The Lord's Supper – more than other titles this connects this meal to Jesus and to the Covenant He fulfills on our behalf. In the Old Testament it was the Passover, and Jesus is called our Passover – ⁷ ... **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)***

In dying for our sins Christ's paid what was required to pardon our sins and so rather than judging us, God's would pass over us and instead of wrath we stand in God's grace! The emphasis in the title "The Lord's Supper" is on Christ keeping promises for us, in the Lord's Supper Christ is our Faithful Husband, we the church are the Bride -

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 1:19–22 (NKJV)

B. *Communion – fellowship between us and Christ, and us with each other ...*

C. *Eucharist – a third name for the Lord's Supper and also for the bread used in the Lord's Supper –*

Emphasis within this NAME is on thankfulness!

We are thankful that Christ died for us. We are thankful for the LIFE His death gives us!

- *Appropriate for this time right after Thanksgiving Day!*
- *Appropriate always with the Lord's Supper / the Eucharist ...*
- *Appropriate every day, because Christ died for us –*

Lack of thankfulness, a sin –

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

**²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
Romans 1:18–25 (NKJV)**

Lack of thankfulness to God led to futile thinking and darkened hearts! Lack of thankfulness led to idolatry! Lack of thankfulness led to LUST!