

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Just as surely as all men shall individually face judgment for their sins, so too did CHRIST make atonement for HIS people as individuals which were chosen in HIM before the foundation of the world. This very fact overturns the notion that HIS atonement is general in nature as a blanket covering for the sins of all men. HE died for “certain men”, atoned for “certain sins”, and obtained a certain redemption for them. *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”* This is the basis upon which the sons of GOD have the HOPE of ETERNAL LIFE and expect to stand in the day of judgment, as those whose sin is covered by HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. The judgment unto condemnation which rightly should have been theirs has fallen upon HIM who has delivered them from the curse of the law and granted unto them the right to be called the sons of GOD.

A “*certain man*”; Lazarus of Bethany, fell sick and ultimately died as all men will. Lazarus death, however, was not unto “death” but unto “life” as the LORD ordained both his sickness and death to demonstrate HIS power over death itself in a most striking fashion. There is no doubt that the LORD could have prevented HIS friend Lazarus’s death by healing him of his disease, just as HE had many others, yet HE tarried on purpose upon being told about the illness of Lazarus, so that Lazarus might die. “*Certain men*” were present on that day when the most startling of all of the miracles which the LORD JESUS performed was carried out. “*Certain*” of those that gathered there were those who already believed the LORD’s teachings and loved HIM. They would be strengthened by what they saw. “*Certain men*” had perhaps heard of this MAN JESUS, who after what they witnessed, would be caused to believe in HIM. “*Certain men*” were there as spies who would report to the Pharisees of what they perceived to be a MAN of power who threatened the religious structure of the Jews. Not one of these “certain men” was there by chance or happenstance. Every step that each of them took was ordained by HIM who would demonstrate the power and sovereign right of GOD to make one vessel unto honor and another to dishonor as pleased HIM.

Martha, being of a very practical mind, expressed an objection when the LORD told the men to take away the stone which covered the tomb’s entrance. She was right to be concerned about the stench which would surely come forth from the rotting corpse of Lazarus. Yet this stench was itself ordained by HIM so that there might be no doubt that Lazarus was dead, beyond any hope of reviving. The LORD would have those “*certain men*”, which were present there to smell death itself and to understand that it is impossible for a man to live again apart from a supernatural work of GOD. A tree may be cut down and yet sprout from its root, but, when men die they return to the dust from whence they came. *“But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not”.*

The LORD had the stone removed as an illustration of the fact that the graves shall be opened and the dead in CHRIST shall be raised from the dust. The LORD *“cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”* This was a call to a “*certain man*”, otherwise all of the dead would have come forth. Even so is the call of the LORD to each one of HIS children. *“He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.”* HE removed the stone from the grave’s mouth so that Lazarus could come out. The living have no place among the dead. *“And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”* This is an illustration of the preaching of the Gospel to the sons of GOD who are made alive in CHRIST. *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* Until a man is awakened by the SPIRIT he cannot see the LIGHT which is shed forth in the preaching of the Gospel. *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:* Have you seen this LIGHT?

*“Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net***