

The Study of the Gospel of John

Lazarus: A Lesson in Soteriology - John 11: 38-46

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, 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 the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

Today's Focus

1. All of men are under the power of sin and it illustrates the power to be born again; it's a lesson in salvation. The divine blueprint of salvation, it's all of grace.
- **A Seeking Savior; vs 38**
 - A) John Calvin puts it that Jesus approached the grave as a Champion contender
 - B) Three truths
 1. Motivated by love
 - (1) *Love for the glory of God*
 - (2) *Love for Lazarus, which began before time began*
 2. A dead man chosen by grace
 3. Sought amid death
 - **A Stinking Sinner; vs 39**
 - A) Lazarus is dead beyond remedy; he has been dead for four days
 - B) This is a depraved sinners condition
 - C) He's been decomposed beyond recognition
 - D) In a malodorous misery; the crowd new he was dead

- **A determined purpose; vs 40-42**
 - A) For the Glory of God
 - B) The believers trust in God's glory (about Martha's ability to see God's glory)
 - C) Faith is the forerunner to being glory-of-God participants
 - D) Action of the grace of God - Jesus acts in the will of the Father
 - E) Thanksgiving in all things - Jesus was not only confident in God's power but was thankful
 - F) The object is none other than Jesus Christ, the main character is NOT Lazarus
- **A decisive command; vs 43**
 - A) It's evident that He used a loud, distinctive voice not for Lazarus, but for the crowd and for a release of emotion
 - B) This was a personal call to Lazarus, definite
 - C) This was a particular call to come forth, a summons to life
 - D) Life comes before faith
 - E) A powerful call
 - F) An irresistible call
- **A compliant corpse; vs 44**
 - A) A bound embrace
 - B) Unsanctified conditions
 - C) The means of sanctification "Unbind him, and let him go"
- **A confounding crowd; vs 45**
 - A) Jesus' teaching and actions often divided the Jews
 - B) While some believed, others apparently had malicious intent and informed the Pharisees; the dynamics of reprobation