

John 11:1-45

August 08, 2004

Overview

- Jesus waits on God's timing (1-16)
- Jesus comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)
- Jesus raises Lazarus (38-45)

Observation

Jesus Often Couples His Teaching With Illustrative Miracles

- The Feeding of the 5000/The Bread of Life (John 6)
- The Man Born Blind/The Light of the World (John 9)
- It is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God/Zaccheus is saved (Luke 18,19)
- The Resurrection and the Life/Lazarus Raised from the Dead (John 11)
- Abundant Life/Lazarus Raised from the Dead (John 10,11)

Jesus Waits on God's Timing (1-16)

“Lord, the one you love is sick”

- Note that in God's economy, Bethany is “the village of Mary and Martha.” What about your town?
- One wonders whether these siblings were married
 - None of their spouses are mentioned here
 - Their relationship to one another is paramount
- Mary is known for her devotion to Jesus (12:1-3)
- Notice how the sisters appealed the Jesus: on the basis of His love for Lazarus
 - Their request is not a demand.
 - Though we can approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph 3:12; cf. Heb 4:16) we are not to make demands of God

Jesus Waits on God's Timing (1-16)

God's Motives Have More to Do With Him Than With Us

- PSA 23:3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- PSA 25:11 For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.
- PSA 106:8 Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his mighty power known.
- ISA 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.
- ISA 48:9 For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off.
- EZE 20:9 But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations they lived among and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt.
- EZE 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.
- MAT 10:39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)

Martha Goes to Meet Jesus

But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." (v.22)

- Though Martha has great faith in Jesus, she does not know what, if anything, Jesus will ask of the Father
 - However, she is certain that whatever request is made, it will be granted
 - This statement intimates a belief that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, even after four days, if He so desired
 - More likely, she has in mind that Jesus provide her comfort in her grief
 - Yet Martha refrains from making such a demand of Jesus, preferring instead to submit herself to His will

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)

The Resurrection and the Life

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; (v.25)

○ Whatever our need for life, be it new physical life in the resurrection or be it spiritual life for one born spiritually dead (Eph 2:1, 4:18), Jesus is able to meet our needs.

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (v.26)

○ Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life and will have physical life restored in the resurrection

○ Believers will not be cut off from God, now, or in eternity

○ They will, for a while, be separated from their bodies until the resurrection, but they will never cease to exist nor will they be separated from their God

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)

Mary Goes to Meet Jesus

*"The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you."
(v.28)*

- Mary, the one who knew how to sit at Jesus's feet and listen, is seen to be responsive and obedient to Him
 - This is the proper attitude to have toward God
 - We must always have our ear inclined toward Him (1Th 5:17)
 - We must always be willing to obey when He speaks to us
 - We can hardly expect God to speak to us if we have the attitude that we will first hear and then decide whether to obey, versus an *a priori* commitment to obedience, whatever God tells us to do

Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)

Jesus Was Deeply Moved and Wept

- Speaking of the Greek word used for "deeply moved,"
 - "The other New Testament passages where it occurs indicate disapproval, perhaps accompanied by sharp retort. Classical Greek writers used it of the snorting of a horse impatient for the race or the battle." [Yeager]
 - "The notion of indignation is present in the other examples of the word in the N.T. (Mk 1:43; 14:5; Mt 9:30). So it seems best to see that sense here and in verse 38. [Robertson]
- Jesus came that we might have life; He was indignant in the face of death
 - Death is an enemy to be destroyed (1Co 15:26)
- The word for "wept" never means to wail, but rather means to burst into tears [Robertson]

Jesus Raises Lazarus (38-45)

Lazarus, come out!

- Jesus thrice raised the dead
 - The daughter of Jairus (Lk 8:50-55)
 - The son of the widow of Nain (Lk 7:11-15)
 - Lazarus (John 11)
- Someone has said that had Jesus not specifically named Lazarus, He would have emptied the whole cemetery!
- God is glorified here by the revealing of His resurrection power
 - Raising the dead is mentioned over 50 times in the NT
 - For example: Jn 5:21; Ac 26:8; Rom 1:4; 1Co 6:14; 15:12,15-16; 2Co 4:14; Eph 1:18-21; 1Th 4:16
- Christ's sheep listen to His voice (10:3)

“It is a peculiar thing, you cannot get any instruction in the Bible as to how to conduct a funeral, for Jesus broke up every funeral He ever attended, by raising the dead.” --D.L. Moody

Jesus Raises Lazarus (38-45)

Loose Him, and let him go

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." (v.44)

○ The lesson here is life first, and then liberty [Ironsides]

- All who hear the voice of Christ have everlasting life (6:47)
- Many a believer does not yet know liberty
- Many are still bound by the graveclothes of tradition, misunderstanding, or unbelief

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. (v.45)

○ And God is further glorified in this

○ This event marks the end of the public ministry of Jesus

Summary

- Jesus waits on God's timing (1-16)
- Jesus comforts Martha and Mary (17-37)
- Jesus raises Lazarus (38-45)

Bibliography

- [1] Scripture from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society
- [2] Herschel H. Hobbs, Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons, Volume 23, Number 4, October-December 1990, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.
- [3] J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible, Volume IV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville TN, 1983.
- [4] A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament, Volume V, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1932.
- [5] Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Volume III, Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI.
- [6] W. E. Vine, Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, MacDonald Publishing Company, McLean, VA.
- [7] Randolph O. Yeager, The Renaissance New Testament, Volume 8, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA, 1982.
- [8] H. A. Ironside, Addresses on the Gospel of John, Loizeaux Brothers Inc, Neptune NJ, 1942.
- [9] New Testament Life Application Notes and Bible Helps c1986 owned by assignment by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
- [10] G. Campbell Morgan, An Exposition of the Whole Bible, Revell, Grand Rapids, MI, 1959.