

36. The Raising of Lazarus

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

36. The Raising of Lazarus

- a) Point out all the range of emotions in this story. First there is Lazarus's sickness, and the panic of his sisters. Then there is their appeal to the Lord, for He loved Lazarus—and his sisters.
- b) Second, the disciples were afraid to go to Jerusalem, because the leaders had tried to kill Jesus. But they were brave, and they went.
- c) Third, there is Martha, who almost rebukes the Lord—if He had been present, Lazarus would not have died. How did she feel when Jesus said he would be alive again? She thought He meant at the end of the world, when she thought that everyone would be resurrected. But the Lord said, "I am the resurrection"—I, who stand right here in front of you.
- d) Note that Mary was too unhappy even to come to Jesus. She just sat, so sad. But Martha was very kind, going to her and saying that Jesus was asking for her—even though He had not. Mary went to Him, and she was absolutely devastated, falling at His feet and crying.
- e) Then the Lord Himself cried!
- f) Imagine the people's fear when the Lord told them to take away the stone, after four days with a dead man in the cave. But they obeyed. Imagine what they felt when Laza-

rus, bound in cloths for his death, walked out of the cave. Imagine the wonder of all the people!

- g) Once again the wicked leaders of the Jews wanted to kill Jesus, just because He had done this amazing miracle. They should have been happy, but they weren't—just like when the blind man found his sight. These leaders didn't care about people, only about keeping power.

- h) What a wealth of emotions!



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The Lord Brings a Friend Back to Life

Now a certain man, whose name was Lazarus, was sick. His sisters, Martha and Mary, sent for Jesus saying, “Lord, he whom You love is sick.” Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us go into Judea. Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I shall go that I may wake him out of sleep.” Then Jesus said plainly to them, “Lazarus is dead. But let us go to him.”

When Jesus came to Bethany, He found that Lazarus had been in the grave for four days. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went out to meet Him, but Mary sat in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not be dead.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. Do you believe this?” And Martha said, “Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Christ.”

Then Martha went to Mary and said, “The Teacher is come and is calling for you.” As soon as Mary heard that she rose quickly and came out of the house to meet Jesus. Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, she fell at His feet saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died.” Jesus, when He saw Mary weeping, was sad in His Spirit. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. Then the Jews, seeing Him, said, “Look how He loved Lazarus.” And some of them said, “Could not this Man who opened the eyes of the blind have helped Lazarus?”

Then Jesus came to the sepulcher, and it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” But Martha said, “Lord, he stinks for it is the fourth day since he died.” But they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was laid. And Jesus, lifting up His eyes, said in a great voice: “Lazarus, come out.” And Lazarus, who was dead, came out with his feet and hands bound in the grave clothes, and his face was bound around with the napkin. Jesus said to them, “Loose him and let him go.” Then many of the Jews who saw these things which Jesus did, believed in Him. But some went to the chief priests and the Pharisees and told them. And they began to plot against Jesus.

John 11

