

JOHN 11:28-57

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 11:1-27 - THE DEATH OF LAZARUS...**

- The Religious leaders tried to kill Jesus at Hanukkah - drove Him from Jerusalem...
 - It is now only weeks before the Passover - only weeks till the crucifixion...
 - Jesus was by the Jordan River - ministering to all who came to hear Him!
- Lazarus - the brother of Mary and Martha - was very sick...
 - They sent for Jesus - and He loved them - but waiting for two days before coming...
 - He told his disciples - Lazarus is dead - and He was glad so His Disciples would believe!
- When Jesus arrived at Bethany - Martha ran about to greet Him...
 - She was disappointed - if only Jesus had been there Lazarus would still be alive...
 - Jesus assured Martha - He was the Resurrection and the life!

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS... (4 THINGS)

- **1ST - JESUS AND MARY... vs. 28-32 (3 THINGS)**

- 1st - Martha returned to her house - and told Mary Jesus wanted to see her... vs. 28-30
 - Jesus did not run to Mary - He waited for Mary to run to Him...
 - God is always there for us - He desires to help us out - but we have to choose...
 - In the story of the Prodigal Son - **Luke 15** - the Father did not chase after the son...
 - He waited till the Son humbled himself - and chose to come back to the Father...
 - Then the Father saw him and had compassion - and ran to embrace His son!
 - Mary immediately went to see Jesus - He was waiting where He had met Martha...
 - It did not take much to get Mary to go to Jesus - she ran the moment He called...
 - How much does it take to get us to run to God - are we like the Prodigal son...
 - Do we wait till our lives have completely fallen apart - no where left to turn...
 - Are we like Mary - hesitate in the hard times - but run when Jesus calls...
 - Best to be like Martha - run to Jesus even before He calls - cause He is THE answer!
- 2nd - The crowd saw Mary hastily leave - assumed she was going to cry at the tomb... vs. 31
 - They had no idea Mary was going to see Jesus - all they saw was death...
 - Those who do not know Jesus - assume death is the end - there is no hope...
 - When they go to a funeral - they weep and wail - mourning the loss...
 - It for them is a sad sober occasion - a reminder that we all die one day...
 - In contrast - a funeral for a believer should be a celebration - joy and laughing!
 - When my Dad passed away - people were confused/amazed by the funeral...
 - Because it was not a sad occasion - Dad was with Jesus - why be sad!
 - We have no need to fear dead - it has not sting / no bite for us - **I Corinthians 15:55...**
 - We know what will happen when we die - we see Jesus face to face!
 - We know that it is not the end - far from it - it is the beginning of eternal life!
- 3rd - Mary arrived - 'Lord if you had been here - Lazarus would not have died'... vs. 32
 - The same complaint that Martha gave to Jesus - Mary now reiterates...
 - Obviously the two had been talking about it before hand...

- They had fed on each other's comments - causing them to doubt Jesus...
- We need to be careful with our comments - they can quickly spread to others...
- Bitter / spiteful comments are like a virus - quickly spread from person to person...
- You have heard the old saying - 'if you have nothing good to say - say nothing'...
- Better to say those things that will bless others - give grace to those who listen...
- Say thing that will build up others in their faith - encourage them in Jesus!
- **Ephesians 4:29** - "Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

- **2ND - WEeping OVER DEATH... vs. 33-38 (2 THINGS)**
 - 1st - Jesus saw Mary (*and the Jews*) crying... vs. 33-35
 - He was angry - the word is the picture of a horse snorting in anger - REALLY ANGRY...
 - And troubled in His Spirit - Jesus was very agitated by what He saw...
 - Not because Mary was crying - she was genuine in her grief...
 - Perhaps not even because of the Jews - though their tears were likely less genuine...
 - Jesus was troubled / angry at death - it was never part of God's original plan...
 - Death is a direct result of sin - Garden of Eden - **Genesis 3:19**
 - Death should never have entered into this world - death is wrong...
 - It makes God angry that we die - that sin causes us to be separated from Him!
 - Jesus asked - 'Where is the tomb'...
 - When He arrived - 'Jesus wept' - this is the shortest verse in the Bible...
 - But HUGE because it reveals God has emotion - and feels for our pain...
 - God knows when we are suffering - He counts every tear - **Psalms 56:8**
 - It is a good example for us when it comes to comforting others...
 - When others are hurting - going through a tough time - meet them where they are...
 - I knew a family who lost their child - two pastors came to 'encourage them'...
 - The 1st pastor gave them all the 'right' verses - but was of no comfort...
 - The 2nd pastor just wrapped his arms around the parents - and cried with them...
 - **Romans 12:15** - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."
 - This is the first of only two times the Bible records Jesus crying...
 - The second time would come only a few weeks later on Palm Sunday...
 - When Jesus would weep for Jerusalem/Jews - because they rejected Him...
 - **Luke 19:41** - "Now as [Jesus] drew near, He saw the city and wept over it."
 - We should also weep for a lost world - one that has rejected Jesus...
 - Driven by our burden for lost family / loved ones - to share Jesus with them!
 - 2nd - The Jews saw Jesus weep - 'see how much He loved Lazarus'... vs. 36-38
 - But others argued - Jesus healed the blind man - could He not have healed Lazarus...
 - They were questioning the geniuses of Jesus' love for Lazarus...
 - If He had REALLY loved him - Jesus would have gotten there in time to heal him!
 - Rather than trust God has a better plan for us - wait upon Him...
 - Too often in life when God does 'rush to our aid' - we question His love...
 - They arrived at the tomb - it was a cave with a stone laid against it...
 - When Jesus heard their comments - He was DEEPLY troubled...
 - When we question the Love of God - it troubles the Lord...

- Consider all He has done for us - all He has given too us - how could we doubt!
- **John 15:13** - "Greater love has no one than this... to lay down His life for His friends."
- **3RD - ROLL THE STONE ASIDE... vs. 39-44 (4 THINGS)**
 - o 1st - Jesus commanded the people to remove the stone... vs. 39
 - The people could not bring Lazarus back from the dead - but they could open the door...
 - We have a very important part to play in brining people to Jesus Christ...
 - We cannot save people from the bondage of sin / and its consequence of death...
 - But we can open the door for them to hear the voice of Jesus...
 - We can invite them to come to church - we can share the Word of God with them...
 - If we are not willing to go and tell them / open the door - who will - **Romans 10:13-15**
 - o 2nd - Martha argued - 'But he is going to stink - he has been dead 4 days'... vs. 40
 - Jesus answered - 'Did I not tell you would see God's glory if you believe...'
 - Many times we hesitate to reach out to the lost - because they 'stink'...
 - They reek of the sins of this world - caught up in all kinds of loose living...
 - But the church is not for social club for saints - it is a hospital for sinners...
 - We cannot be afraid to go and get our hand dirty - sinners need our help!
 - Not that we join in with them - we need to be careful not to fall back into the world...
 - But we reach out to them - showing them the Love of Jesus!
 - o 3rd - Jesus looked up to heaven - 'Father I thank you that you have heard Me'... vs. 41-42
 - God always hears the Son - but Jesus said it for the benefit of those listening...
 - He wanted them to believe that it was the Father that sent Jesus!
 - It seems it is easy for us to talk about almost anything with people...
 - We can talk about the weather / sports / what is happening with sugar prices...
 - The one subject that seems hard to bring up - is talking about Jesus Christ...
 - But we cannot tell people about Jesus - if we do not talk about Him...
 - Why waste time on any other subjects - go right to the one that promises Eternal life!
 - o 4th - Jesus shouted - 'Lazarus come out'... vs. 43
 - It is a good thing that Jesus was specific in calling out Lazarus...
 - If Jesus had just said 'come out' - everyone would have walked out of their graves!
 - Because Jesus has the power over death - He has the power to give new life!
 - One day Jesus will shout out again - and this time it will be for everyone...
 - **Thessalonians 4:16** - "The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout... all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves!"
 - Because Jesus / the Word alone has the power of the resurrection - He alone gives life!
 - **Revelation 1:8** - "I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."
 - o Lazarus came out of the grave - alive again... vs. 44
 - Jesus told the people to untie him from his grave clothes...
 - Here is where our responsibility comes in again - helping remove the 'grave clothes'...
 - When people first come to Jesus - they are often still bound up in a lot of sin...
 - We need to help new believers overcome some of the 'binding sins' of their past...
 - Encouraging them in their new walk with Jesus - helping them walk in the truth!
- **4TH - ONE MUST DIE FOR THE MANY... vs. 45-57 (3 THINGS)**
 - o 1st - The reaction of the Religious leaders... vs. 45-48

- Many of the people believed in Jesus after seeing the resurrection of Lazarus...
 - But some of them ran to the Pharisees and told them what happened...
 - We can always expect one of two responses from others when we share the Gospel...
 - Either people believe - or they run and cause trouble for those who do believe!
- The Leaders (*Sanhedrin*) called a meeting to discuss what to do about Jesus...
 - They realized if they just left Jesus alone - everyone would believe in Him...
 - One of the biggest reasons people do not come to Jesus - other people...
 - Someone might be interested in coming to church / hearing the Bible...
 - But they are afraid of what other people might say...
 - Or they do begin to go to church - and all the comments begin to flow...
 - If not for the bad influence of other people - many more would believe in Jesus!
- The Leaders feared the Romans would take away their position - their nation...
 - The idea being the people would make Jesus their King - **John 6:15**
 - And the Romans would blame the Leaders for not doing something to stop Jesus...
 - It was an empty fear - Jesus had already refused to be their earthly King...
 - But it served its purpose to stir up the leaders to take extreme action!
 - I once heard someone say you should not go to church there...
 - They do not know where they are going - 'no name on the side of the jeep'...
 - People will say anything to try and keep others from coming to Jesus...
- o 2nd - The counsel of Caiaphas... vs. 49-52
 - Caiaphas was appointed as high priest by the Roman government...
 - The High Priest should have been chosen by God (*Aaronic line*)...
 - But it was not longer a religious position – it had become a political position...
 - He was serving as the high priest that particular year - so he spoke up...
 - It is better that one man die - than a whole nation perish...
 - Caiaphas did not say this on his own - he prophesied that Jesus would die...
 - So He could gather together all the children of God who were scattered...
 - Not that Caiaphas was a good man - he was a self-serving coward...
 - But the very thing Caiaphas wanted to do to stop Jesus - was Jesus' plan all along!
 - People can and will say what they want – and do what they want...
 - But in the end – God is in control – and He uses all things for His purpose...
 - **Genesis 50:20** - "God turned into good what you meant for evil."
- o 3rd - Seeking to kill Jesus... vs. 53-57
 - From that day on the Leaders sought to kill Jesus...
 - So Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews - instead stayed in Ephraim...
 - The resurrection of Lazarus is only recorded in the book of John...
 - But it is the key event leading up to the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus...
 - With Lazarus as evidence of the power of Jesus - proof He was the Messiah...
 - The leaders had very little time to act in order to stop Him!
 - It was close to the Passover so everyone was making the Pilgrimage...
 - Everyone was talking about Jesus - would He show up to the Festival...
 - But the Leaders had given strict orders to report to them if anyone saw Jesus!
 - The scene is set for the end of Jesus ministry - His Crucifixion and Resurrection!

- The other gospels dedicate only three chapters to the last week of Jesus ministry...
- The book of John dedicates TEN chapters to the Passion Week!