

Pray BIG Prayers!

January 22, 2015

John 11:1–44

- 1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.
- 2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)
- 3 Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.
- 4 When Jesus heard that, he said, **THIS SICKNESS IS NOT UNTO DEATH, BUT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, THAT THE SON OF GOD MIGHT BE GLORIFIED THEREBY.**

There are no accidents and no mistakes in the circumstances which God orders in our lives. We must see every circumstance as an opportunity for God to be glorified and magnified in and through us. Then we can face each circumstance with great joy!

Philippians 1:20

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

- 5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
- 6 **WHEN HE HAD HEARD THEREFORE THAT HE WAS SICK, HE ABODE TWO DAYS STILL IN THE SAME PLACE WHERE HE WAS.**

When it seems God is not listening, or He is not near, or He is not working, His greatest purposes are at work.

- *Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for the birth of Isaac.*
- *Joseph was betrayed and separated from his family for 22 years.*
- *Moses was in the wilderness for 40 years before God appears in the burning bush.*

- 7 Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.
- 8 His disciples say unto him, **MASTER, THE JEWS OF LATE SOUGHT TO STONE THEE; AND GOEST THOU THITHER AGAIN?**
- 9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.
- 10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.
- 11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **OUR FRIEND LAZARUS SLEEPETH; BUT I GO, THAT I MAY AWAKE HIM OUT OF SLEEP.**
- 12 Then said his disciples, **LORD, IF HE SLEEP, HE SHALL DO WELL.**

13 Howbeit **JESUS SPAKE OF HIS DEATH: BUT THEY THOUGHT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN OF TAKING OF REST IN SLEEP.**

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **LAZARUS IS DEAD.**

15 **AND I AM GLAD FOR YOUR SAKES THAT I WAS NOT THERE, TO THE INTENT THAT YE MAY BELIEVE; NEVERTHELESS LET US GO UNTO HIM.**

16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, **LET US ALSO GO, THAT WE MAY DIE WITH HIM.**

17 **THEN WHEN JESUS CAME, HE FOUND THAT HE HAD LAIN IN THE GRAVE FOUR DAYS ALREADY.**

18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 **THEN SAID MARTHA UNTO JESUS, LORD, IF THOU HADST BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER HAD NOT DIED.**

They knew Jesus could heal the sick, that had been proven many times. If Jesus had arrived before Lazarus died, then surely he could have healed him and prevented his death. Was Jesus able to heal the sick only, but not raise the dead?

Now that Lazarus has died, is it "too late" for God's power? Is there a threshold or deadline which can prevent God from working? What limits do we place on God's power in our faith?

22 **BUT I KNOW, THAT EVEN NOW, WHATSOEVER THOU WILT ASK OF GOD, GOD WILL GIVE IT THEE.**

23 Jesus saith unto her, **THY BROTHER SHALL RISE AGAIN.**

24 Martha saith unto him, **I KNOW THAT HE SHALL RISE AGAIN IN THE RESURRECTION AT THE LAST DAY.**

25 Jesus said unto her, **I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE:**

There is no limit, no expiration, no deadlines, with God's power. It is never "too late." God's power is not constrained by time, distance or circumstance. Life and death are the same to God; He is Lord over both and nothing is impossible to Him in either state.

26 **AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. BELIEVEST THOU THIS?**

This is the great hope of every Christian, guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is NO death for the Christian, only immediate passage into the presence of God!

27 She saith unto him, **Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.**

Martha side-stepped Jesus' challenge with a "safe" answer. We need to believe BIG, pray BIG and put no limits on what God can do!

28 And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

30 Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

31 The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

32 **THEN WHEN MARY WAS COME WHERE JESUS WAS, AND SAW HIM, SHE FELL DOWN AT HIS FEET, SAYING UNTO HIM, LORD, IF THOU HADST BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER HAD NOT DIED.**

33 **WHEN JESUS THEREFORE SAW HER WEEPING, AND THE JEWS ALSO WEEPING WHICH CAME WITH HER, HE GROANED IN THE SPIRIT, AND WAS TROUBLED,**

How it grieves God when we limit Him with our unbelief!

34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

37 And some of them said, **COULD NOT THIS MAN, WHICH OPENED THE EYES OF THE BLIND, HAVE CAUSED THAT EVEN THIS MAN SHOULD NOT HAVE DIED?**

38 **JESUS THEREFORE AGAIN GROANING IN HIMSELF COMETH TO THE GRAVE.** It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, **TAKE YE AWAY THE STONE.** Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, **LORD, BY THIS TIME HE STINKETH: FOR HE HATH BEEN DEAD FOUR DAYS.**

40 Jesus saith unto her, **SAID I NOT UNTO THEE, THAT, IF THOU WOULDST BELIEVE, THOU SHOULDEST SEE THE GLORY OF GOD?**

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, **FATHER, I THANK THEE THAT THOU HAS HEARD ME.**

42 **AND I KNEW THAT THOU HEAREST ME ALWAYS: BUT BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHICH STAND BY I SAID IT, THAT THEY MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.**

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, **LAZARUS, COME FORTH.**

44 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.