

Lazarus' Lesson

Week of Feb 10 - 16, 2020

Introduction

God does not always answer our prayers when or how we want Him to. We find Mary & Martha in this passage waiting for Jesus, wondering what is taking Him so long. Their brother Lazarus has been dead for four days. God works in His time and in His way. When Jesus finally shows up, they think it is too late, only to find out that God's timing is always perfect. We might think his timing stinks, but like Lazarus, God's promises erase any bitter aroma.

Lesson John 11:32-44

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept. **36** Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39** "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 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.”

Questions

1. Mary said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not be dead!” How many of us have also cried out to God with similar words: “If you loved us, you would not have let _____ die!”?
2. If only. How much time is spent wondering “Where are you Lord?” “What is taking you so long?” “How could you let this happen?”
3. Jesus weeps. Death breaks our hearts, it stings, it stinks. Has your relationship with Jesus helped you in a time of suffering?
4. Why did Jesus wait 4 days? Do you sometimes question God’s timing?

5. Jesus performs a miracle in raising Lazarus from the dead. How does belief in Jesus change your perspective on life and death?
6. It took a great act of faith to remove the stone. Could you remove the stone?

Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us Jesus, who was fully man and could understand our suffering. Thank you for being patient with us when we do not understand your timing or your answers to our prayers. Thank you for being with us in our pain and loss. Please help us have faith in our waiting and surround us with your infinite love. Amen.