

## FINAL STUDY NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY – 1/8-9/2024 - John 11:1-57

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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### OPENING PRAYER

**Review from last week: Jesus the True Shepherd! Jesus the Good Shepherd! I and the Father Are One!** (*Joh 10:22*) *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter-12/25, about 3 months before Passover. The Shepherd Knows His Sheep! Renewed Efforts to Stone Jesus! The Believers Beyond Jordan!*

**(John 11:1-57) – The Death of Lazarus! – (vs. 1-16); I AM the Resurrection and the Life! – (vs. 17-27); Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy! – (vs. 28-37); Lazarus Raised from the Dead! – (vs. 38-44); The Plot to Kill Jesus! – (vs. 45-57)**

#### The Death of Lazarus– (vs. 1-16)

*Joh 11:1 Now a certain man was sick (very sick), Lazarus (Eliezer -one whom God helps) of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.*

*Joh 11:2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair (six days before the end of Jesus' ministry), whose brother Lazarus was sick.*

- **In the next chapter, John will tell us about the anointing with ointment.** John is writing years later and he is identifying her as that one who anointed Jesus with this costly perfume. Matthew's gospel, in chapter 26, tells how that Jesus said she had anointed Him for His burial.
- **Now this is not to be confused with the anointing of Jesus by the sinful woman, (*Luk 7:37-38*), which occurred much earlier and for a totally different purpose (forgiveness of sins versus anointing Jesus for His upcoming burial),** during Jesus' second year of ministry, when He was at the house of a Pharisee whose name was Simon. So this is not that Mary. This is the Mary who just before the crucifixion of Jesus anointed His feet, pouring the perfume on His head and wiping His feet with her hair.

*Joh 11:3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick (failing)."*

- **Lazarus, very loved by Jesus, very sick!** The word "love" there is the Greek word "*phileo*." It is actually more of an emotional kind of a love that you have. Jesus loved him. He loved the family. It was a place where Jesus often would stay. He did not have His own home. He did not have His own bed but there was always the welcome mat out at the house of Martha and her sister, Mary and brother, Lazarus. Often, when in Jerusalem, Jesus would stay there with them.
- **Lord, behold** (this is important), **he whom You love.** The message they sent was very short, not *petitioning*, much less *prescribing* or *pressing*, but barely relating the case with the tender insinuation of a powerful plea, *Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.* They do not say, He whom we love, but *he whom You love!* Our greatest encouragements in prayer are brought from God Himself and from His grace. (*1Jn 4:10a*) *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us.* Our love to him is not worth speaking of, but His to us can never be enough spoken of
- **Is sick. Notice, it is just information. There is not really a request here.** It is not really saying, Jesus, come, because they knew Jesus and they knew His love. They knew that He would respond to their need. They did not feel it necessary to make a request. They were just informing Him, the one that You love is very sick.

*Joh 11:4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

- **Jesus is saying that death is not going to be the final issue.** In reality, Lazarus was already dead, but yet Jesus is saying, "*This sickness is not unto death,*" meaning that death is not going to be the final issue. There is a purpose in this. The purpose is that God might be glorified and that the Son of God might be glorified through the sickness; that an opportunity may be given for the manifesting of God's glorious power!
- **God has a purpose for the things that happen in our lives.** He does not operate apart from a purpose and a plan that He has for us. God said in (*Jer 29:11*) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the*

LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. So Jesus is saying, There is a purpose for this. We need to remember whenever we have been praying for the Lord to do something without delay and He waits, it is that He has something better in store for us than that, which we were so urgently requesting.

**Joh 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.**

- **Loved! Here is a different Greek word.** Now Jesus loved, this is “*agapao*,” from which we get, of course, the *agape*. The “*agapao*. Jesus was devoted to them. He loved them divinely, spiritually. There was a deep, deep love for Martha and Mary and Lazarus. John reminds us that Jesus did genuinely love these sisters and their brother. He did not just simply love the family. He loved Martha and He loved Mary and He loved Lazarus. It was an important reminder, showing that a testing of their faith was not a denial of His love.
- **He loved them, that is, he designed to do something great and extraordinary** for them, to work such a miracle for their relief as He had not done any of his friends. Therefore, He delayed coming to them, that Lazarus might be dead and buried several days before He came. If Christ had come presently, and cured the sickness of Lazarus, He would have done no more than he did for many, but, deferring His relief so long, Jesus had an opportunity of doing more for him than for any! God has gracious intentions even in seeming delays!

**Joh 11:6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.**

- **He did not just say, Let us take off. But He remained there for two days** – divine procrastination – never a lack of love by Him, vastly different from our procrastination.

**Joh 11:7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."**

- **It was as though He was not going to respond at all to the need.** Staying there for just a couple of days. Then, He says, Now let us go to Judea again. Christ never brings His people into any peril but He accompanies them in it, and is with them even when they *walk through the valley of the shadow of death!*

**Joh 11:8 The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"**

- **In the last chapter we remember they were taking up stones to stone Him** because Jesus was claiming to be the Son of God. But He escaped out of their hand. Now the disciples say, Lord, You want to go back up there again? The last time we were there, You remember they were going to stone You!
- **Here they showed great care for their Master's safety. Yet in this they show at the same time** a great distrust of His power. Also there may be the secret fear of suffering themselves.

**Joh 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.**

**Joh 11:10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."**

- **Jesus said, I know what I am doing. You walk in the daylight because you can see where you are going.** Jesus is making a spiritual application. I know where I am going. I know what I am doing. I am aware. I am not walking in darkness. I am not oblivious to what is going on. He was in control of the situation. Jesus is saying that His life would not be taken until it was the will of the Father. We are in the safest place that we can be, when we are right in the middle of God' will for our lives!

**Joh 11:11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps (temporary), but I go that I may wake him up."**

- **Our friend Lazarus.** There is a covenant of friendship between Christ and believers, and a friendly affection and communion pursuant to it, which our Lord Jesus will own and not be ashamed of. Death itself does not break the bond of friendship between Christ and a believer. Lazarus is dead! He is still *our friend!*

**Joh 11:12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well."**

**Joh 11:13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.**

**Joh 11:14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.**

- **It is in the past tense, "Lazarus is dead – Lazarus died."** It is interesting that the term “sleep” has been used for the death of the child of God to distinguish it from the death of a sinner. If you are a child of God, you really do not die. It is more like sleeping than death. So, to distinguish between the two. It is really wrong to say concerning a child of God, that He died last week. No, he moved last week out of a tent and into the heavenly, eternal house. (2Co 5:1) *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

- So they used the term “sleep.” We remember when the daughter of Jairus had died. When Jesus came to the house, they were wailing and He said, She is not dead. She only sleeps. They laughed at Him to scorn. Now He is using the same term concerning Lazarus and the disciples do not understand it. They said, If he is sleeping, he is probably getting better. So Jesus just said plainly, *Lazarus is dead!*

***Joh 11:15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."***

- When Jesus does come to them, Mary and Martha both say, Lord, if You had only been here, my brother would not have died. They were probably correct. Had Jesus been there when Lazarus was sick, He probably would have healed him so that he would not have died. But Jesus is saying, *I am glad for your sakes I was not there.* Remember Lazarus is in this state for the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified. This is the sixth of the signs that John gives to us to prove that Jesus was the Messiah.
- On two other occasions, Jesus raised the dead, little Talitha, the daughter of Jairus, had just died. She was not dead very long. There was the widow's son of Nain. They were carrying the body out for burial when Jesus stopped the funeral procession and healed him or brought him back to life. It would probably be better to say, that Jesus resuscitated (revivification) them rather than resurrected them because they came back into the same body. In the resurrection, we are going to have new bodies, different bodies! But they came back into the same body. Their spirits returned to the same body.
- The interesting thing is that Jesus in all of the cases talked to the dead. Now you would not think of doing that, would you? He said to her, (Mar 5:41b) "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." He said to the son of the widow to arise. Later on, we will find Him saying, (Joh 11:43b) He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" Our Lord used different methods in His healing, but His method of raising the dead was always the same. He called to them and spoke to them as if they heard Him. Do you know why He did that? Because they heard Him! I think that when He returns with a shout, every one of us will hear his own name because He will call us back from the dead!
- Jesus is now deliberately waiting so that there will be no question. You could say, Well, maybe they had not really fully expired. Maybe she had just gone into a coma and it appeared that she was dead. But here, Jesus waited two days so that by the time He arrived, Lazarus had been **dead for four days** so that there could be no mistaking that this guy is really gone –“He stinketh!” Thus, the miracle becomes even more prominent because of the time that lapsed between his death and between the resuscitation by Jesus. *I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."*

***Joh 11:16 Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."***

- In other words, Thomas says, Let us go, fellows, we might as well die with Him. This is the end kind of a thing, but notice Thomas' willingness.

### ***I AM the Resurrection and the Life!* – (vs. 17-27)**

***Joh 11:17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.***

***Joh 11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away.***

- For the next eleven verses, the focus shifts from the disciples to the two sisters.

***Joh 11:19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.***

- Quite often when a person would die, they even have professional mourners. People who were particularly adept at wailing. They would hire them and you would have to stay in the house for seven days wailing after the death of a person to really demonstrate your love. So, Mary and Martha were there in the house and other Jews had come to wail with them over the death of their brother, Lazarus.

***Joh 11:20 Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house.***

- Martha broke protocol of the week of mourning, wailing. You were not to leave the house for seven days but she broke protocol.

***Joh 11:21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.***

- Although we cannot be dogmatic, I think that with Martha there was surely disappointment and perhaps even a slight rebuke of Jesus. It was more or less saying, Lord, what took you so long to get here? Surely by our message You must have realized it was serious. If You had only come earlier, You could have averted this tragedy. You could have averted our sorrow and our grief. If You would only have been here,

things will be different. She had faith in the healing ability of Jesus, but apparently not, if a person had already died. The sisters wanted a healing! Jesus wanted a corpse, that His glory in resurrecting the body might be shown, and for the people to believe! But He enters into their pain with them.

***Joh 11:22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.***

- **That is quite a statement. Is she suggesting that Jesus could actually raise her brother from the dead? Or that God could, if He would just ask Him? “I know that whatsoever You ask of God, He will give it to You.”** It would appear that perhaps what she was suggesting.
- **However, when they came to the tomb and Jesus said to take the stone away from the entrance to the tomb, it was Martha who said, “O Lord, you better not because he’s been dead there for four days and it’s smelly.”** So there is sort of an ambivalence. We all understand that.
- **There is with each of us sort of an ambivalence at times where we say, O Lord, we know You can do anything, but Lord, don’t You know, do You realize what is really happening here? Our faith wavers.**

***Joh 11:23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”***

- **Jesus is telling her; I am going to raise him from the dead.** But she understands Him to be talking of the resurrection of the last days. The one that Daniel prophesied.

***Joh 11:24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”***

***Joh 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*** (continue to) live.

- **This is the fifth “I am” of Jesus. I am the resurrection and the life! He doesn’t say that He knows the way, but that He is the resurrection, Himself! Keep your eyes on Jesus!**
- **The seven “I AM” statements in the Gospel of John. 1) (Joh 6:48) I am the bread of life. 2) (Joh 8:12) I am the light of the world. 3) (Joh 10:9) I am the door. 4) (Joh 10:11) I am the good shepherd. 5) (Joh 11:25) I am the resurrection and the life. 6) (Joh 14:6) I am the way, the truth, and the life. 7) (Joh 15:1) I am the true vine.**

***Joh 11:26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never (ou me – shall never, never, in no way) die. Do you believe this?”***

- **Martha had said, “I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.** Now He is making this statement, a radical statement indeed! “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live! Lazarus had believed in Jesus; Though he may die, he shall live.
- **And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die!** Jesus in that second part, is referring to spiritual death, which is the separation of a man from God. The separation of a man’s consciousness from God. That is spiritual death. To live without the thought of God, without the consciousness of God! To live your life without consulting God! Thinking about God! You are spiritually dead. “whoever lives and believes in Me, Jesus said, “you shall never die!” That is, you will never be consciously separated from God!
- **Paul the apostle teaches (2Co 5:1) For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** A new house! This body is a tent. You never think of a tent as a permanent place.
- **(2Co 5:2,4,6,8) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, [4] For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. [6] So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. [8] We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.** Never consciously separated from God!
- **Paul also said, (Php 1:21,23-25) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [23] For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. [24] Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. [25] And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,**
- **Do you believe this?”** Notice that this promise that Jesus is making includes every single believer! Jesus is saying, If you live and believe in Him, you will never be separated from God’s love, never consciously separated from God! “Do you believe this?” What a great question for Martha! What a great question for each of us!
- **A graveyard!** What a place for Jesus to make such a claim, *that whoever lives and believes, shall never die!*

***Joh 11:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”***

- Notice that she did not really affirm her belief in His being the resurrection and the life. She affirmed her belief that He was the Messiah, *the Son of God, who is to come into the world.* (*Joh 20:31*) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**Jesus Weeps! Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy! – (vs. 28-37)**

***Joh 11:28 And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher (Master, rabbi) has come and is calling for you."***

- John does not record the full conversation with Martha because it does not record that Jesus said, Go, get Mary. Nor does it record where Jesus said, If you can believe, you will see the glory of God. Later Jesus said to her, Do you not remember I said, If you will believe, you will see the glory of God. So John does not record that but we know that He did say that to Martha. We are getting an abbreviated account of their conversation.

***Joh 11:29 As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him.***

***Joh 11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him.***

***Joh 11:31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."***

- To weep there. The word “weep” there, is “wail!”

***Joh 11:32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."***

- Typical of Mary, the worshipper! Notice, “she fell down at His feet!” She said the same thing that Martha said! You remember on an earlier occasion when Jesus was at their house and Martha was busy in the kitchen fixing things and getting things prepared. Where was Mary? She was “sitting at the feet of Jesus, just talking to Him.” Martha said, Lord, send my sister in here to help me. She has left me to do all the work. Mary is just sitting there and talking to You. (*Luk 10:41-42*) *And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. [42] But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."* It was typical for Mary to be at the feet of Jesus. In the next chapter, we will find her anointing Jesus, wiping His feet with her hair. It was so typical of Mary, the worshipper. So *she fell down at His feet of Jesus!*
- ***Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*** She said exactly the same words that Martha had said, which may reflect that they had talked about that. When Lazarus died, I am sure that they kept talking about it, saying, If the Lord had only been here. He would not have died if the Lord were only here. Oh, how disappointing. If He had only been here, Lazarus would not have died.
- ***So Mary is saying the same thing as Martha, however Mary fell down at His feet before her question.*** Often you really do not know what a person is saying unless you hear the tone of voice. Martha’s tone of voice was sort of a rebuke. Whereas Mary’s was likely, Oh Lord, You could have done it! I know You could have. It was not so much of a rebuke, just a declaration affirming her belief in His powers and in His ability.

***Joh 11:33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned (indignant) in the spirit and was troubled (unsettled emotionally).***

- ***He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. In the original language,*** it was, “He was filled with indignation.” He became angry. Not at their wailing. But He became angry at the consequences and the result of sin, when He saw the pain that sin brings! When He saw the grief and the sorrow that has been brought upon mankind by sin. He was troubled! He was angered! He was filled with indignation seeing the consequences of sin. What sin does, the sorrow and the grief that sin brings.

***Joh 11:34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."***

- Jesus inquired where the grave was, otherwise, if He had gone straight to it of His own knowledge, the unbelieving Jews should have suspected a collusion between Him and Lazarus, and a trick in the case.

***Joh 11:35 Jesus wept.***

- ***Jesus wept.*** There is that short verse. When you were in Sunday School and they asked for a scripture memory verse, this is one we all knew, wasn’t it?
- ***The word here, “Jesus wept,” is different than their weeping, which was wailing.*** This just speaks of tears beginning to course down His cheeks. He was not weeping over Lazarus, as they supposed, because Lazarus was dead. Jesus knew that in a few moments He was going to glorify God by raising him from the

dead. But again He was weeping because He could see in the sorrow and in the bitterness the pain that sin does bring, which is an emotion that was never intended through creation.

- **On another occasion we find Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem.** (*Mat 23:37*) "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!* It was for the same cause. He could foresee what their rejection of Him was going to cost them. He began to prophesy of the destruction that was going to come upon Jerusalem by the Roman soldiers. He began to talk about how that the children were going to be dashed in the streets and how the Roman army was going to encircle Jerusalem and how it was going to destroy the city and how the temple would be destroyed. He saw the desolation and the devastation that their rejection of Him was going to bring; then, soon and on down through the centuries! And He wept! Not because they were rejecting Him, but He wept because He could see the consequences of that rejection.
- **The Savior weeps with you!** (*Luk 19:41,42, 44*) *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, [42] saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [44] and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*
- **Again, weeping over the consequences of sin.** The sorrow, the pain, the suffering that it brings. We are brought by Jesus into the heart of God. You remember He said, (*Joh 14:9b*) *He who has seen Me has seen the Father.* We see the Father weeping over the pain and the suffering that sin brings into a person's life, into the world; the effects and the consequences of sin. The pain, the suffering that sin brings; Jesus wept!

*Joh 11:36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"*

*Joh 11:37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"*

- **Some of them believed!** They are, more or less, saying that if He had only been here, maybe He could have kept him from dying.

**Lazarus Raised from the Dead!** – (vs. 38-44)

*Joh 11:38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.*

*Joh 11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."*

- **In those days, they did not have any embalming.** Even to the present day, the Jews do bury the body the day the person dies. No embalming the body and lying in state and so forth. They just take the body out and bury it immediately the day they die, the person is buried. So the decomposition of the body had started. He has been dead for four days. *There is a stench. He stinketh,* in the KJV.

*Joh 11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"*

- **John did not record Jesus saying that to her but Jesus is reminding her.** Do not you remember I said to you, If you would believe. She had expressed earlier, "*I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.* She said, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God. Now though in practical reality, her doubts are coming forth. Lord, he has been dead for four days, we better not move the stone. Jesus said, Didn't I say to you, If you would just believe, you would see the glory of God?
- **How true this is. If we would just believe, we could see the glory of God,** and that this death was not the final say in Lazarus' life. Jesus has something better in mind and that is, for the people and disciples to see the miracle of Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead for them to put their faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God!

*Joh 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.*

*Joh 11:42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."*

- **Jesus' own little personal conversation with the Father.** "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know that You always hear Me. It really is not for Me, but for the people's sake that I say it, that they might know that You have sent Me."

**Joh 11:43** Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

- **He cried with a loud voice**, so that they could all hear! I can imagine. Again notice, He is addressing a man who has been dead for four days. He is calling him by his name, commanding him, speaking to the dead. Don't you know for a moment there was great tension? I am sure that those that were wailing suddenly stopped with their mouths still wide open. What is He saying? He is putting it on the line.
- **Now He is putting it on the line. Is that just an empty boast? Or is it reality? In a loud voice**, He says, *Lazarus, come forth*. Now if Lazarus does not come forth, then we can discount all He said. But if Lazarus does come forth, then we better pay attention to what He said! What happened? When He had thus spoken, He cried with a loud voice, *Lazarus, come forth.* Notice how He wants us to be involved –"Roll away the stone!" Smell the smell! Loose him and let him go!" He wanted them to smell it; see it; and to hear it!

**Joh 11:44** And he who had died came out, bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

- **You remember when Jesus rose from the dead, it was different.** The graveclothes were still lying there in place and the napkin was folded and lying separately. But here, Lazarus, still bound hand and foot in the graveclothes, probably had to sort of jump out. Jesus commanded, *"Loose him, and let him go."*

**The Plot to Kill Jesus!** – (vs. 45-57)

**Joh 11:45** Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

- **There was much done towards the perfecting of what was lacking in the faith** of those that did, which Christ aimed at, to the intention that they may believe!

**Joh 11:46** But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

- **They went and reported Him, recognizing the threat to the Jewish religious status quo**, that this miracle represented!
- **We have, I think, a mistaken notion that if our friends could just see a miracle, then they would believe.** If you are disposed not to believe, if you are determined and you have set your mind not to believe, no amount of miracles is going to convince you. It takes the Holy Spirit to convince us of sin and to plant faith in our hearts.
- **So, there were those that did believe; but there were also those that actually ran to tell the Pharisees.** He is at it again. To report to Him.
- **We see this continuing theme**, that the words and works of Jesus divide humanity between those who believe and those who reject. Some who saw both the power and sympathy of Jesus yet responded by working against Him.

**Joh 11:47** Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council (sunedrion-Jewish Sanhedrim) and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs.

**Joh 11:48** If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place (temple) and nation."

- **Notice that they were interested in their positions.** Jesus was a threat to their positions. They were lording and profiteering over the people in a religious manner. They were using it to set themselves up in an aristocracy, living in the finest homes in Jerusalem. They were wealthy because of the way they had manipulated the religious practices, so that they could profit from them. Jesus was a threat for their positions.
- **You remember later when Paul was preaching in Ephesus. It was Demetrius, the silversmith**, who stirred up the crowd against Paul saying, these people are converting the people to Christianity, telling them that these little silver gods that we are making and selling to the people, that they are not really gods. So, they stirred up a riot against Paul and fellow-workers, because their trade was threatened (*Acts 19:24-27*).
- **They had been thriving and prospering from the religious superstitions of the people.** They knew that the gospel of Jesus Christ would bring an end to that! Unfortunately, still today, there are those who have learned since how to profit off of these things. But Jesus was a threat to their position. *"If we let Him alone, the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."*

**Joh 11:49** And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year (year of crucifixion), said to them, "You know nothing at all,

- **Here they are, having this big discussion, and of course, this guy says, Hey, you know nothing at all.** That immediately just puts down everybody, doesn't it?

**Joh 11:50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."**

- ***Nor do you consider that it is expedient for us.*** That word “expediency.” How many horrible things have been done in the name of expediency? Today they call it political correctness. Expediency. This is politics at its worst. Politics is bad, but this is at its worst. Notice how he says it in such a politically correct way. He did not say, Don’t you realize we got to kill Him? Now that is what he is saying. But he couches it, *Nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish?* Do you not realize it is expedient that one should die for the people, so that the whole nation does not! The national interests are greater than that of an individual person. It is hypocrisy! It is politics.
- **But the interesting thing is that though this was a politicized kind of a speech, because he was the high priest, there was a certain kind of anointing of God, that went with the office.** This man was actually uttering a prophecy not even realizing it.

**Joh 11:51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for** (the spotless and pure One, willingly, instead of – substitutionary atonement) **the nation,**

- **Caiaphas, as high priest, is prophesying that Jesus was not going to die for Himself!** He was going to die for the nation! Caiaphas thought he was in control, but we see our King is in control. How similar to the world today!

**Joh 11:52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.**

- **That Jesus would die for the world.** Caiaphas did not realize that is what he was predicting. That is exactly what was going to happen in not many days. *(Isa 49:6) Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth. (Eph 2:13-14) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ, [14] For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, .*

**Joh 11:53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.**

**Joh 11:54 Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples.**

- **In the previous chapter, it was in the wintertime that Jesus was in Jerusalem at The Feast Of Dedication,** December 25th, when He healed the blind man, which resulted in this confrontation with the Jews in which they were going to stone Him. He then left, went on down to the Jordan river, until summoned by Mary and Martha because of their brother’s illness. He came, raised Lazarus from the dead, but then He then returned to Ephraim to be away from the Jews because He knew that His crucifixion was to take place at the Passover, as He would fulfill all of the symbolism of the Passover. That took place in April. So these events are taking place between the first of the year and April, the first couple of months. But He goes to Ephraim and there He waits until six days before the Passover, when He comes back to Jerusalem for the final time.

**Joh 11:55 And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves.**

- **We are moving now and how long He was there at Ephraim;** we do not know. We just know that this is compacted into a space of about two to three months, January-March. The Passover of the Jews was at hand,”
- **And many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves.** It was necessary to go through the rites of purification in order to be able to participate in the temple precincts on the feast days.

**Joh 11:56 Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?"**

**Joh 11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.**



- **So word was out. If you know where He is, report Him. We want to arrest Him.** The plot was hatched. They were ready to put Him to death. The conspiracy has been established. So, the people were wondering. The buzz was around. Do suppose that He will show up?
- **As we move into chapter twelve, we find that Jesus does show up.** Not in secret! He comes in His Triumphant Entry (483 years to the day from King Artaxerxes command to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem (Nehemiah chapter 2), riding in on a donkey amidst the shouts of His disciples! (**Luk 19:41,42, 44**) So our next study will take us into chapter twelve. Again it is recommended that you read Chapter twelve in advance!
- **Sometime as we see the tragedy that sin has brought into the world,** seeing the grief and the pain and the suffering. We understand the heart of Jesus a little bit, who wept over the pain that sin brings. But Jesus came to cancel out the pain and the sorrow and the suffering that sin has brought. And He can give you, as the prophet said He would, (**Isa 61:3a**) *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!* Oh how I love Him! How I appreciate His love for me.
- **May we go in the love of Jesus, enriched in the love of Jesus!** May you become very conscious and aware of His love, of His presence with you this week. Sustaining you; helping you; guiding you; keeping you steadfast in His love!

## SUMMARY:

- **The Death of Lazarus!** – *Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." [15] And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."*
- **I AM the Resurrection and the Life!** – [25] *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. [26] And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" [27] She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*
- **Jesus and Death, the Last Enemy!** – *Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. [34] And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." [35] Jesus wept.*
- **Lazarus Raised from the Dead!** – *Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." [40] Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" [41] Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. [42] And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." [43] Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" [44] And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*
- **The Plot to Kill Jesus!** – *And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, [50] nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." [51] Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation.*
- (**Joh 11:25-26**) *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. **Do you believe this?***
- **This I believe!**

## CLOSING SONG:

### **THIS I BELIEVE** - (The Creed) (3:36/3:43) Hillsong

*Our Father everlasting The all-creating One God Almighty*

*Through your Holy Spirit Conceiving Christ the Son Jesus our Saviour*

*(Refrain) I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son I believe in the Holy Spirit*

*Our God is three in One I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again*

*For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

*Our Judge and our Defender Suffered and crucified Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness You rose in glorious light Forever seated high (Refrain)*

*I believe in You I believe You rose again I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord  
I believe in life eternal I believe in the virgin birth I believe in the saints' communion  
And in Your Holy Church I believe in the resurrection When Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus (Refrain)*

*For I believe in the Name of Jesus.*

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Read and study *John Chapter 12!***

### **CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:**

Phil Twente [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) cell 714 425 9221 [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) - Audio & notes from previous studies  
**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!**

#### **MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

#### **TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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