

Following the Message

- 1) In this passage, we will see Jesus reveal His power. He will reach beyond this world into the afterlife...into territory that belongs only to God.
- 2) 11:4 The Bible plainly teaches that sickness and death in a believer are by no means contrary to God's love. Jesus' response indicates that some sickness, and even death, may sometimes be God's will to accomplish His purpose.
- 3) 11:9-10 To digress from what you know God's purpose to be is to walk in darkness.
- 4) 11:15 Jesus considered this an opportunity for a supreme demonstration of power that would certify the Father's accreditation of him as the Son and confirm the faith of the sisters and the disciples.
- 5) 11:16 Lazarus' resurrection would do far more to strengthen the disciples' faith than a healing alone would have done.
- 6) 11:19 From a human viewpoint, the Jews were there for consoling purposes. From God's viewpoint, they were there to witness the majesty of Jesus.
- 7) The raising of Lazarus would be done in public, before numerous influential onlookers from the capital city. As a result, not even Jesus' enemies would be able to deny what He had done (cf. 11:47).
- 8) 11:21-22 Martha is not rebuking Jesus, she is heartbroken. We can see woven here a trace of her faith in Jesus, but she clearly believed the situation to be hopeless.
- 9) 11:26 Jesus was not asking her if she believed that He was about to raise her brother from the dead. He was calling her to personally believe that He alone is the source of resurrection power and eternal life.
- 10) 11:33-35 The response of Jesus gives us another brush stroke for our Portrait—fully God, yet fully Man.

11) 11:35 Jesus was thoroughly human, but His tears do not reflect the same hopeless despair those surrounding Him felt. Jesus' tears were generated by His grief over the effects of sin in His created world...the world that should never have known death.

12) 11:40 To the sisters in their grief, to the disciples in their fear and bewilderment, to all the spectators and skeptics standing around, to any who seek to know God, Jesus calls for faith first and sight later.

13) 11:41-42 The prayer was not for Jesus' benefit, but its aim was to bring the spectators into the group of believers.

14) 11:43 "Had He not addressed Lazarus by name, all the dead in all the graves would have risen." [Augustine]

15) The primary purpose was not to restore Lazarus to life, or to comfort his sisters. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, first and foremost, so that He and the Father would be glorified.

Greek Words

Klaiō—to wail, to lament loudly

Embrimaomai (em-brim-ah'-om-ahee)— (to snort w/anger); have indignation, groan, murmur against

Tarassō (tar-as'-so)— to stir or agitate (roil water)

Dakruō (dak-roo'-o)—to shed tears :- weep

Kraugazō—(cried out) to shout