

Episode #1-45 – When Lazarus Was Raised

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In this passage, we are studying the seventh and climactic sign of the resurrection of Lazarus. The Lord has arrived outside the tomb of Lazarus, and commanded the stone blocking the entrance to be rolled away. Then, He prayed and thanked His Father for already hearing Him.

III. John 11:42-44. The Lord at the tomb.

A. V.42. The Father always hears and grants His requests. Good to remember, since many believe He did not grant His last two requests! Sent=*apostello*.

B. V.43. He tells Lazarus to come forth by name. If not by name, would all the dead have come forth?

C. V.44. Even a living, healthy man could not have obeyed bound hand and foot with restrictive grave clothes. His face was bound, so he could not see. He had been dead when put in the tomb, so did not know the way out. This was God's power! He commanded them to loose him and let him go.

IV. John 11:45-57. The aftermath of the miracle.

A. V.45. Many of the Jews respond with belief when presented with evidence

B. V.46. Others act as spies for the Pharisees. Remember the purpose of John. Will you like them refuse to believe even in the face of such signs?

C. V.47. The chief priests and Pharisees gather the Sanhedrin. His miracles prove His claims, but He refuses to accept their authority. They are unwilling to give up their positions. They conclude they must do something to stop Him.

D. V.48. If He continues doing miracles, all will believe in Him. (Even their fellow Jews!) They assume He will rebel, like many false messiahs before Him, and that such a rebellion will fail. (An excuse, Rome allowed local rulers. Pilate saw no threat in the Lord.) Their place and nation were taken away about 40 years after this, but not because of the Lord! They view the temple and nation as "theirs," not God's!

E. V.49. Caiaphas-high priest about 6 months before. He accuses them of ignorance.

F. V.50. They must plan His death, so the whole nation will not perish.

G. V.51. The Spirit explains these words were given him by God. His position was established by God, though he himself was in open rebellion. Caiaphas meant these words for evil, but the Lord had an important, deeper meaning.

H. V.52. Not Gentiles, but Israelites scattered among the nations. They heard the word in Acts (Romans 10:18). Ultimately, gathered in the Kingdom of God. The Lord's death paved the road for this.

I. V.53. They conclude His death is the only way to stop His work.

J. V.54. The Lord goes into hiding again in a town called Ephraim near the uninhabited places (16 miles from Jerusalem, now called Ophrah.)

K. V.55. Passover draws near (of the Jews.) All must go to Jerusalem. Many go early to purify themselves (must be pure to offer the sacrifice.)

L. V.56. Many seek Him when they come (He is popular.) Knowing His clash with the Jewish leaders, they wonder if He will choose not to come.

M. V.57. They hoped to arrest Him and put Him to death. Probably those arriving were just hearing about this, and so conclude He will not come. We know the Lord had other plans, and His final confrontation with the leaders is near.

V. Conclusion: The seventh and greatest of the signs displays Christ's power over death, and so again shows that He is the Son of God, God represented in human form. Some believed, and some didn't, but instead tried to destroy Him. Many respond both ways even today. How do we respond? Do we believe, or reject and hate the Lord instead? Let us believe!