

## **WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY**

### **The Glory of Christ's Life-Giving Power**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

We have been journeying through John, Chapter 11 toward an event that many of us have read, heard preached and studied. It is not unfamiliar territory. "Why did John include this story in his Gospel?" No other evangelist did? Why John? I believe he does for two reasons:

1. This is his 7<sup>th</sup> Sign in his Gospel. Up to this point there have been 6:

1. Turning Water into Wine ([John 2:1-11](#))
2. Cleansing the Temple ([John 2:12-17](#))
3. Healing the Nobleman's Son ([John 4:46-54](#))
4. Healing the Lame Man ([John 5:1-15](#))
5. Feeding the Multitude ([John 6:1-15](#))
6. Healing the Blind Man ([John 9](#))

In John's gospel the event had to be explicitly designated by John as a sign (*semeia*). These weren't all the signs that Jesus did, but they were the one's that the Holy Spirit directed John to memorialize this in his Gospel. John 12:17-18<sup>1</sup> is evidence that this is one of John's signs. And of course, the purpose of all these signs is so ". . . so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31, ESV).

2. This story also serves John's writing. This event kickstarts the sad events that will follow. Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin will decide to kill Jesus. It will be the event that will cause the crucifixion of Christ. Ironically the resurrection of Lazarus will lead to the death of Jesus.

**TEXT: [JOHN 11: 38-44 \(ESV\)](#)**

#### **EXPOSITION**

Jesus arrives at the tomb of Lazarus still angry over what sin and death had done to those who He loved. These people created in the image of God; created to glorify God; created with eternal value and distinction have been ripped apart by death – the consequence of sin. Jesus, therefore, arrives at the tomb to meet an offensive, decomposing, repulsive body. But He comes to raise Lazarus back to life.

---

<sup>1</sup> "The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign." (John 12:17-18, ESV)

That fact hasn't sunk in, even to Martha. I want to point out 3 significant things that are recorded for us, before Lazarus is actually raised from the dead.

#1. "DID I NOT TELL YOU?" (v.40)

John 11:40 (ESV), reads this way: <sup>40</sup> *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*

There is no record of Jesus telling Martha that if she believes she will see the glory of God. What he did say to her was that her brother would rise again and that He was the resurrection and the life. So how do we make sense of this? I believe that Jesus claim to be the Resurrection and the Life along with His promise to raise Lazarus, together show that His glory will be on display. Here's the point: **It is God's glory to raise to life all who have faith in Him.**

In other words, if God does not follow through with His promise, He will rob Himself of His glory.

#2. "YOU HAVE HEARD ME." (v41)

In John 11:41–42 (ESV) we read these words:

<sup>41</sup> *So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."*

As Martha believed in v22, Jesus is confident that His Father ALWAYS hears and answers His prayers. Here we read that He prayed publicly (not because it added more fervency, more effectiveness to His prayers) because He wanted to be heard by the audience so that they would be certain that this is a work of His Father. He wanted them to know that this was by Divine miracle.

What is the point that I wish us to be certain of? It is this: **God the Father ALWAYS answers the prayer of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

#3. ("CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE") v43)

Notice these words that John records earlier in his Gospel:

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live." (John 5:25, ESV)*

*"Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice" (John 5:28, ESV)*

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead by the power of His Word. Remember God's call to Ezekiel?

*"And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."'" (Ezekiel 37:3–6, ESV)*

Here's the third point: **There is life-giving, life-sustaining power in the Word of Christ.**

## SUMMARY

The raising of Lazarus displayed the power of Christ's Word, the infallibility of Christ's prayers and the establishment of the glory of God as the goal of resurrection.

## APPLICATION

John Calvin notes that, "not only did Christ give a remarkable proof of His Divine power in raising Lazarus, but He likewise placed before our eyes a lively image of our future resurrection."<sup>2</sup> Please note as I apply this to you and I:

#1. Notice again the infallibility of the prayers of Jesus and consider with me part of His high priestly prayer in John 17:24: *"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."*

We have already established in this Gospel that the phrase "all you have given me" pertain to the Elect, those drawn to the Son, those whom the Father gives eternal life. In short these are those who believe and have placed their faith in Christ. These are those who hear His voice and follow Him. Jesus prays that they would be in Heaven with Him and share in His glory. **Question? Will the Father answer that prayer of the Son?** There is but one right answer.

#2. Notice these events that occur around the Second Coming of Christ. Why do I say these verses refer to Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Return? Because Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 at the resurrection occurs at the coming of our Lord. Hear what he writes in 1 Thessalonians:

*"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, ESV)

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom34.xvii.i.html>

That life-giving Voice will cry as He descends from the Heavens and the dead will come to life. If you have died in Christ, you will awaken and no force in the Universe will stop it. **The dead in Christ will rise.**

#3. Thirdly, turn with me to 2 Thessalonians 1, where we read, “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, <sup>10</sup>when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed.”<sup>3</sup>

When Christ comes again and raises to life “all who have believed” He will be “glorified in His saints.” Remember what we said earlier? **It is God’s glory to raise to life all who have faith in Him.**

So Beloved on this Resurrection Sunday, let us take to heart the truths that Christ’s prayer that all who are in Him will be with Him, will be answered. At His Coming His voice will raise the dead and He shall be glorified with His people – forever and ever, and ever. Now let us do what Paul calls us to do in 1 Thessalonians 4: *“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:18, ESV)

Before I close, I want to say a word to you who might be listening; you who are not believers in Christ; you who have not heard the voice of Jesus and are not following Him. I have a word of distress and a word of hope. The sad news is that if you do not repent and believe the Gospel you will perish. You will perish because you “refused to love the truth and so be saved.” Some people say, “I’m a good person.” Some people even say, “I believe in Jesus”. But the Scriptures ask you, “Do you love the truth?” Do you delight in God’s Word? Are you part of the community of the redeemed who are people of the Truth? If not, you will perish.

But there’s good news. You don’t have to perish. You can be saved. God has planned a way to demonstrate His own righteousness *and* satisfy His own demands for justice while securing a solution to our sin problem. It isn’t a method of earning it. It is a matter of grace through faith. Faith is the connection to God; grace gives you the ability to receive it. But it’s not a matter of simply dropping the charges. That would violate justice. No, this plan of God’s includes paying the price (called “redemption”) and setting aside the *righteous* wrath of God (called “propitiation”) by the death of Christ Jesus. His blood paid on your behalf for your all your sins. In addition to this, to all who receive God’s gift of salvation, He gives to you His righteousness, declaring you perfectly righteous based on Christ’s payment for our sin. In one sentence it reads this way:

*“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)

I plead for you to trust Christ today and be saved.

---

<sup>3</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (2 Th 1:7–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.