

John 11

John 11:1-12

This is the seventh of the 7 miracles of Jesus in *John*:

- water to wine
- nobleman's son
- sick man at Bethesda
- feeding of 5000
- walking on water
- blind man healed
- What was purpose of presenting these seven miracles?** To cause people to believe
- A non-inspired writer might have omitted these miracles
- Imagine a man being raised from the dead, but John begins in his usual straight forward style
- Is there any basis for thinking John is making things up?** No
- This is the pinnacle of John's account of the miracles of Jesus

V 1 – (not the same Lazarus as the one in *Luke 16:19-31*)

- What do we know about Lazarus, Mary, and Martha?** Mary and Martha had an argument in *Luke* - **Read Luke 10:38-42**
- Martha was too busy with work
- Bethany was a few miles outside of Jerusalem

V 2 – **What act had this Mary already done, when John was writing?** She washed the feet of Jesus with her hair

- This is described in *John 12:1-11*
- Was this a mistake in John's description before the event?** No, John was writing this many years later
- We do not know the cause of Lazarus' sickness (only this account)

V 3 – **Why did Mary and Martha send for Jesus?** Jesus stayed at their home often; he was welcomed there and also stayed a lot in the home of Peter in Capernaum

V 4 – Jesus often referred to death as a sleep

- Read Mark 5:39** – Jarius' daughter
- Jesus: This sickness will not lead to permanent death
- What looked terrible to these sisters would turn out to be for the glory of God

V 5 – A precursor to v 6

- How did Jesus feel about Martha and Mary and Lazarus?** He loved them as close friends
- V 3 and v 5 – "agape" = deep love, when we put the best interest of others first

V 6 – Jesus did not delay because he didn't love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

- God sometimes withholds things from us for our own good

-Best interpretation: Jesus knew that Lazarus was already dead (not that he was waiting for him to die)

V7 – Jesus and the apostles prepared to go to Judea

V8 – **Objections from the apostles?** The Jews would kill Him

-**Had Jesus ever changed his plans due to threats and danger?** No

-To go to Judea meant Jesus was ready to die

V9 – In the ancient world (without precise clocks, etc.) the daylight was divided into 12 sections which would vary in length during course of a year

-So Jesus is saying: There is only so much time in the day – we must work for the night is coming

-For all of us we must say: There is only so much time to obey the gospel and to talk to people about the gospel

V10 – We must walk while we have the light

V11 – **How did Jesus speak of death?** As sleep (from the human point of view)

V12 – Very common pattern in *John*: a symbolic statement, which was misunderstood, followed by an explanation in *v 13-14*

John 11.13-16

V13-14 – Jesus drops the symbolism and is forthright: Lazarus is dead

V15 – **What was the reason for the delay?** “So that you may believe”

V16 – Very interesting here concerning Thomas

-**How do we usually picture Thomas?** Doubting

-**How is he pictured here?** Courageous enough to die with Jesus

-Apostles could not foresee the resurrection of Lazarus; they could only see the Jews persecuting them if they came back

John 11.17-24

V17 – Notice how John is taking this story in stages

-He lays the groundwork very carefully and very well for the miracle

-Four days = one day for messenger – 2 days delay – 1 day travel (probably died just after messenger left to tell Jesus that Lazarus was sick)

V18 – **Location of Bethany?** 2 miles away

-Bro. Guy N. Woods: This may indicate John was writing this after 70 A.D., since Bethany was probably destroyed in the Roman attack

V 19 - **Significance of many mourners?** Many friends of the two sisters and Lazarus (they were highly respected)

V 20 – This reconfirms the view of Mary and Martha in *Luke 10.38-42*
-Martha = busy, Mary = meditative

V 21 – **Summarize Martha’s statement?** Regret, not rebuke; does not indicate she had weak faith
-She was just not prepared for what was about to happen

V 22 – **Did she foresee the resurrection of Lazarus?** No, just a statement of faith that Jesus can do all things

V 23 – Startling and ambiguous = to build up her faith gradually in the final resurrection

V 24 – **Reply of Martha?** Yes, I know about the final resurrection
-Martha was a faithful Jew
-The view of the Pharisees (not the Sadducees) was that there would be a resurrection of the dead

V 25 – Live = spiritually, die = physically
-Jesus is the only way to eternal life

V 26 – The necessity of believing; it is imperative

V 27 – A beautiful verse – the Good Confession
-**What all does she confess?** Lord, the Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah who was to come
-This was a woman of deep faith

V 28 – **Why secretly?** Maybe so that Mary could have a few moments of quiet with Jesus
-Funerals are hectic
-Everybody wants to help – much commotion, but peace and quiet is usually what a family needs the most

V 29 – **Response of Mary?** She went immediately to Jesus

John 11.30-37

V 30 – Jesus was still not at Martha’s house

V 31 – Mary was trying to get away from mourners
-**What happened?** They followed her out to see Jesus (typical of a funeral scene)

V 32 – Mary = more emotional than matter-of-fact Martha; Mary fell at feet of Jesus

- Describe the statement of Mary?** Identical to what Martha said in v 21
- Indicates?** They must have discussed it a lot together

V 33 – It must have been a very emotional moment

V 34 – Jesus asked where the body had been laid

V 35 – The shortest verse in the Bible

- What are some reasons for Jesus' weeping?** At how the human race is held in bondage by death, also the sorrow caused to loved ones by the death of a person

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (sympathetic Saviour)

V 36 – **Reaction of some Jews?** They saw the great love of Jesus

V 37 – Probably not asked in hostility, but maybe they were sincerely confused at all this

John 11.38-46

V 38 – **Description of the tomb?** A cave with stone over opening

- Again indicates wealth of Martha, etc.
- Similar to the tomb of Jesus (carved in solid rock for Joseph of Arimathea)

V 39 – Jesus never did a miracle for his own convenience, so he asked for the stone to be removed

- Notice the force of Jesus' words: "*Remove the stone*"
- Who speaks up?** Martha, the practical one!
- Mary remains in the background
- Wonder what the people thought about this time?
- We can almost feel the electricity in the air

V 40 – Jesus reassures Martha

V 41-42 – **What did Jesus do before raising Lazarus?** Pray

- Substance of prayer?** To cause people to believe

V 42 – God heard Him

- This prayer was to instruct the observers

V 43 – Everything has been prepared for this moment by Jesus and by John

- When magicians and wizards try to do "tricks" today, how do they talk?** Secret words, whispering incantations, etc.
- How long did it take for this miracle to take place?** It was instantaneous

V 44 – He was loosely bound (the preparation of dead for burial)

- From silence of the Scriptures, people must have been stunned and astonished

V 45 – Another result? Many Jews believed

V 46 – Another result? Some told the Pharisees about this

- Did anyone argue that a miracle had been done?** Absolutely not
- Notice: one miracle with 2 reactions: belief and non-belief

John 11.47-50

V 47 – A backroom meeting to decide what to do

- “What are we doing?” – In other words, how can we let this man get away with this?
- Did they disagree that miracles had been done?** Again, no

V 48 – What were their motives? Loss of power

- Odd philosophy: “Ends justified the means”
- Same with communists, terrorists, all other evil people (they want to do something, so they find a way to justify it)

V 49 – Seems to say, “The answer is easy – you’re not even thinking about this”

- Very rude (a Sadducee)

V 50 – His answer? One life is small price to pay for many other lives

- V 48 – First motive: to keep Romans from taking away their nation
- But, of course, the Romans took it away in 70 A.D. (the punishment from God for the crucifixion of his son in Jerusalem)

V 51 – Even though the high priest was a calloused man, God used him to speak on this occasion

V 52 – All people can be saved by the death of Jesus

- Read Ephesians 2:11-16** - Remember the reference to “sheep in other fields”

V 53 – The final turning point in the book, the watershed moment

John 1.54-57

V 54 – Where did Jesus go for a few days? The little town of Ephraim (believed to be a few miles away)

- Probably for a little rest before his crucifixion

V 55 – What feast was “at hand”? Passover

- Other Passovers: 2:13, 6:4, probably 5:1
- So probably this is the end of his 3 year ministry
- Purification and various ceremonial washings from the traditions of the Pharisees

V 56 – Questions being commonly asked?

- The second question expected a negative answer (he probably wouldn’t show up)

V 57 – Pharisees were looking for Jesus to seize him

-John leaves out a considerable amount of material at this point in Jesus' return trip to Jerusalem

-Further details:

-*Matthew 19:1-20:34* (marriage and divorce, rich young ruler, parable of laborers in vineyard)

-*Mark 10:1-52* (marriage and divorce, rich young ruler, blessing the children, Bartimaeus

-*Luke 17:1-19:28* (cleaning of the ten lepers, Parable of Pharisee and Publican, rich young ruler)

-This indicates again John's singular purpose: only the events which would produce belief in the hearts of honest people who are seeking the truth

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