

## SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**JOHN 11:33** When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

**34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.**

35 Jesus wept.

**36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!**

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

**38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.**

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.

**40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?**

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

**42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.**

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

**44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.**

### NOTES

# A Display of Divine Glory

Lesson Text: John 11:33-44

Related Scriptures: John 17:1-5; Matthew 11:25-30

TIME: A.D. 30

PLACE: Bethany

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" (John 11:40).

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## *Lesson Exposition*

### **A TIME OF SORROW— John 11:33-37**

**Jesus troubled (John 11:33-34).** We noted last week that Mary seemed to be much more overwrought than Martha over Lazarus's death. When she came to Jesus, she fell at His feet and wept. Martha appears to have been the more pragmatic of the two, while Mary was more emotional. But Jesus was able to relate to both of them according to their particular needs.

When Jesus saw Mary crying along with her fellow mourners, it affected Him deeply, and He "groaned in the spirit" (vs. 33). The Greek word translated "groaned" means "to murmur against." John also described Jesus as "troubled," which indicates agitation and emotional turmoil.

Jesus asked those standing by where Lazarus had been laid to rest. In their eagerness to show Him, they invited Him to come and have a look. It is certain their expectations at the time were fairly low, but they appreciated His interest and concern for them.

**Jesus grieved (John 11:35-37).** Verse 35, the shortest verse in the Bible, simply says, "Jesus wept." The turmoil He had felt over sin's conse-

quences in the lives of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus turned to outright sorrow and weeping as He expressed the compassion He felt for people living under sin's dominion.

The Jews, especially their leaders, saw Jesus' tears as motivated by regret over His inability to save Lazarus. This perceived ineffectualness on Jesus' part prompted them to disparage the legitimacy of His healing powers. "Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?" (John 11:37).

### **A TIME OF ACTION— John 11:38-41a**

**Jesus' command (John 11:38-39).** Lazarus's tomb was a small cave carved out of the limestone rock of a hillside. The emotional turmoil Jesus felt when He saw Mary weep (vs. 33) was aroused again as He approached. He was deeply troubled over the havoc and destructive chaos caused by sin and death.

Jesus ordered that the stone that blocked the opening to the tomb be moved away. But Martha warned of the fact that there would be a stench

after four days of decomposition. Though she had spoken of Lazarus's resurrection (vs. 24), she did not yet understand that Jesus intended to raise him immediately.

**Jesus' reminder (John 11:40-41a).** Jesus reminded Martha of what He had said earlier about resurrection. He had told her that her brother would rise again. He had explained, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (vss. 25-26). He had asked her if she really believed this, and she had confessed her complete faith in Him.

Jesus now summarized what He had told her then with the words, "thou shouldest see the glory of God" (vs. 40). He was about to glorify God by demonstrating that He, the Son of God, is the Resurrection and the Life!

Although Martha's faith in Jesus was genuine and strong, her understanding was limited. Her faith was manifested when she consented to having the stone removed.

### **A TIME OF VICTORY— John 11:41b-44**

**Jesus prays (John 11:41b-42).** Jesus' prayer to His Father was not so much a request as it was a thanksgiving. His Father had already decreed what was going to happen. Instead of asking that His Father raise Lazarus from death, it was a prayer of gratitude for what would surely soon take place. His prayer had already been heard.

Jesus thanked God that He had already heard Him. He thanked God that He always heard Him when He prayed. He was praying for the benefit of the people who were present, "that they may believe that thou hast sent me" (vs. 42).

Adult Bible Class

**Jesus calls (John 11:43-44).** Jesus suddenly called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." Was there a gasp from the crowd? Did everyone stand in absolute silence? Surely there were gasps and murmurings when they saw Lazarus appear at the door to the tomb.

Jesus' divine power and authority was fully demonstrated in this miracle. His loud cry initiated more than one man's resurrection; it initiated the beginning of faith in Jesus as more than just a teacher or a prophet or even the Messiah, but as the omnipotent God-man, who, as Paul testified to the Colossians, embodies the fullness of Yahweh Himself in human form (cf. Col. 2:9). Jesus still summons dead souls to new life today—all those who trust in Him!

—Keith E. Eggert.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How did Jesus respond when Mary fell at His feet weeping?
2. What did Jesus do when He arrived at the tomb of Lazarus? Why?
3. How did the people standing by interpret Jesus' weeping?
4. How is the burial place of Lazarus described?
5. What did Jesus command to be done as He stood at the tomb?
6. How did Martha respond to Jesus' command?
7. How did Martha show her trust in the Lord's ability to act?
8. What was unusual about Jesus' prayer before Lazarus's tomb?
9. For what did He thank His Father, and what was His purpose?
10. How did Jesus demonstrate His divine power and authority?

—Keith E. Eggert.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

1. Jesus understands our grief, for in His humanity, He too experienced it (John 11:33-35; cf. Heb. 4:15).
2. We should live in a way that people will see how much we love others (John 11:36).
3. God prepares His people for great victories through simple steps of obedience (vss. 37-39).
4. Faith is the key component to seeing God's glory being manifested in our lives (vs. 40).
5. Prayer prepares our hearts for seeing God's will accomplished in our lives (vss. 41-42).
6. Jesus has authority over death and is man's only hope for spiritual life (John 11:43-44; cf. Rom. 3:21-26).

—Brandon Byler.

## RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. Do you find it comforting to know that Jesus experienced emotions like grief (John 11:33-35)? Why or why not?
2. What are some things we can do today to show that we love people (vs. 36)? Why is it important to communicate our love for those who have died?
3. What do you think the people were thinking when they saw Lazarus come out of the tomb (vss. 43-44)? How can we explain the very different responses to the miracle (cf. vss. 45-53)?
4. How does knowing Jesus has power over death affect the way we deal with hard times (vs. 44)?

—Brandon Byler.

## Golden Text Illuminated

**“Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” (John 11:40).**

Although Martha affirmed her belief in Jesus (cf. John 11:27), during this moment her faith wavered. What seemed to be impossible to her was possible with God (cf. Matt. 19:26). Anticipating a promised resurrection, she overlooked the One who embodied the resurrection in Himself.

In Hebrew, “glory” translates as “weight,” something heavy that leaves a lasting and deep impression. God is awesome. As the stone was rolled away from the tomb and Lazarus was raised from the dead, all who witnessed were awestruck with amazement. As a result, many Jews believed in Jesus by faith (cf. John 11:45). God's glory and splendor is so heavy that it leaves a life-changing imprint on the minds and hearts of men.

In Scripture, there are some who have glimpsed the glory of God and lived. To name a few, Moses, Aaron, and the seventy elders of Israel saw the glory of God. Isaiah the prophet saw the glory of God. Taken up on a high mountain, Peter, James, and John saw the glory of God in the transfiguration of Christ. All of Jesus' apostles, including Paul, saw the glory of God in the Person of Jesus.

Mary, Martha, and the disciples saw the glory of God on public display. What about you? Have you seen a display of Jesus' divine glory in your life? Do not let it pass you by simply because you are not paying attention.

—Kenneth E. Ware.