

The Death And Resurrection Of Lazarus

Part 3

John 11:33-46

Jesus' Reaction To The Weeping

John 11:33 When Jesus therefore saw her [Mary] weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,

1. The previous verse did not state it (Jn. 11:32), but Mary was weeping when she fell down at Jesus' feet.
2. Jesus was greatly moved by this weeping friend and the others who were weeping.
3. Jesus knew what He was going to do, but He still felt sympathy for this heart-broken friend and for the others.
4. Jesus was and is a very compassionate, merciful, caring Person.

Note:

1. The words "deeply moved" or "groaned" are from "embrimaomai" [ehm bree **mah** ah mi] and was an old verb meaning "to snort with anger like a horse."
2. This word occurs again in this chapter. (Jn. 11:38).
3. It occurs in the Greek Septuagint in Daniel 11:30 for violent displeasure.
4. The notion of indignation or warning is present in the other examples of the word in the New Testament. (Mk. 1:43; 14:5; 9:30).

Mark 1:43 And He **sternly warned** him and immediately sent him away,

Mark 14:5 "For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and {the money} given to the poor." And they **were** [in anger] **scolding** her.

Matt 9:30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus **sternly warned** them: "See that no one knows {about this!}"

5. Assuming the word in John 11:33 denotes anger, the question arises whom was the object of Jesus' anger.
6. Was He angered at: (1) Mary (2) Martha (3) the Jewish crowd (4) Himself.
7. There appears to be no reason why Jesus would be angry at any of these people or at Himself.
8. Some have suggested Jesus was angered at the devil who is the cause of sin, sickness, death.
 - a. Jesus did rebuke the devil and his demons at times.
 - b. There is no way to be sure about this theory.

- c. There is certainly nothing in the context to suggest Jesus was angry at the devil and his demons and blamed them for the death of His friend Lazarus.
9. It is probably best to view the words “deeply moved in spirit” not in the sense of anger, but denoting Jesus was very emotionally upset and His mind was violently agitated by the death of his friend and the mourning of Mary and Martha and the others. (Jn. 11:35).

John 11:34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

1. Jesus knew the answer to His question, but He still asked where they had buried Lazarus.
2. They were ready to lead Jesus to Lazarus’ tomb, and Jesus was now ready to go to the tomb.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

1. Jesus manifested His human side.
 - a. He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead.
 - b. Seeing His friends in a state of sorrow broke His tender heart.
 - c. Jesus had also manifested His humanity elsewhere in John. (Jn. 4:6,7; 19:28).

John 4:6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, **being wearied** from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "**Give Me a drink.**"

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "**I am thirsty.**"

2. He had a great love for Lazarus and his sisters.
3. We have been taught to weep with those who weep. (Rom. 12:15).
4. Weeping should come naturally to Christians and non-Christians.
5. Even the Christian hope [assurance] of a resurrection does not keep one from weeping.
6. It is natural to weep when earthly ties have been broken.
7. For Christians we must not weep as those who those who have no hope. (1 Thess. 4:13).

Comment:

1. Because of the way the New Testament has been divided into verses, John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the English Bible.
2. The English text is actually translated from three Greek words and literally could be translated “the Jesus shed tears” or “Jesus wept” omitting the definite article “the.”
 - a. “Wept” is from the Greek “dakruo” [dah **kroo** oh] and this verb form is used only here in the New Testament.
 - b. It does not mean “to wail,” but “to weep, shed tears.” Jesus burst into tears.

c. The noun form of the word “dakru” [**dah** kroo] means “a tear.” (Acts 20:19).

Acts 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

d. The plural form of “dakron” is used in Hebrews 5:7 “with strong crying and **tears.**”

Heb 5:7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

e. Jesus is was sympathetic to the family of Lazarus and He is sympathetic to our weaknesses and needs and sorrows. (Heb. 4:15).

3. Jesus wept over the loss of His friend Lazarus and He wept over the sins of His people and the destruction that would come upon them. (Lk. 19:41-44). “Wept” is from the Greek “klaio” [**kli** oh] meaning “to weep, shed tears.”

Luke 19:41 When He approached {Jerusalem,} He saw the city and **wept over it,**

Luke 19:42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

Luke 19:44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

Reaction To Weeping Of Jesus

John 11:36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!"

1. The weeping of Jesus convinced the Jews, at the tomb, that Jesus had a great love for Lazarus.

2. The word “phileo” [fee **leh** oh] is used by the Jews to describe Jesus’ love for Lazarus.

3. The two words meaning “love” in this chapter are used as synonyms. See notes John 11:3,5.

John 11:37 But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"

1. Others were critical of Jesus. They were convinced Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying since He could even open “the eyes of a blind man.” (Jn. 9:1-6).

2. Their question, in Greek, began with the negative particle “ouk” meaning “not” expecting a positive answer.

3. They expressed the same view shared by Martha and Mary. (Jn. 11:21, 32).

John 11:21 Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

John 11:32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

4. The words expressed by Martha and Mary did not have a critical tone, as far as the text reveals, like the “some” in this verse.

Jesus Comes To Lazarus' Tomb

John 11:38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. See notes on “deeply moved” - John 11:33.

1. Once again Jesus “was deeply moved within” coming to the place where His friend had been laid to rest.
2. Tombs were caves with a stone door closing the entrance.
3. It would be a short time later that the corpse of Jesus would be placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. (Jn. 19:38-42; Matt. 28:2; Mk. 16:3,4; Lk. 24:2; Jn. 20:1,6, 8).

John 11:39 Jesus said, "Remove [Lift you] stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days." Literally “Lord, now he smells”

1. The Egyptians practiced embalming, but the Jews did not.
2. The Jews used clothes and spices, but this did not stop rapid decomposition of the body.
3. Decomposition had already started with Lazarus and there would “be a stench.”
4. All believed Lazarus would remain dead until the resurrection at the end of time.
5. Martha objected because she did not know Jesus was intending to raise her brother from the dead.
6. She believed there was no point in opening the tomb because of the stench and because Lazarus was dead until the time of the general resurrection of the dead.

John 11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

1. Jesus reminds her of the promise He had earlier made. (Jn. 11:23, 25).

Jn. 11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Jn. 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,”

2. Jesus here speaks of the glory He would receive as God’s Son because He would show He had power over death. (Jn. 11:4).

Jn. 11:4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

Jesus Ordered Stone Removed And Prays

John 11:41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

John 11:42 "I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

1. Immediately after they removed the stone Jesus gave thanks to the Father. (Jn. 11:41).
2. “Jesus raised His eyes” as He did on several occasions. (Jn. 6:5; 17:1).

Jn. 6:5 Therefore Jesus, **lifting up His eyes** and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, *said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

Jn. 17:1 Jesus spoke these things; and **lifting up His eyes** to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,

3. He began with thanksgiving and thanked God for hearing Him.
4. The Father had always granted His requests and the implication is that He had full confidence God would again grant His request.
5. He made this prayer because He wanted those around Him to know He had asked the Father to grant His request and they would know that God heard the request and was granting it.
6. He was not asking for the power to raise Lazarus from the dead.
7. He already had that power and had demonstrated it on several occasions.

John 11:43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

1. The purpose of the "loud voice" is not stated, but it may have been so all could clearly hear His command to Lazarus and know God was answering His prayer.
2. This was a cry from the One who had all authority and Lazarus responded to it.

John 11:44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind [Loosen] him, and let him go."

1. Lazarus came forth from the tomb.
 - a. His spirit returned to his body (Jas. 2:26), and he was raised from the dead.
 - b. He was still bound hand and foot with wrappings and this would make movement very difficult.
2. Jesus commanded them to "Unbind him, and let him go."
 - a. Lazarus had his life restored, but we know nothing about the activity of his spirit the four days of his death.
 - b. The Bible is silent about his spirit going to Abraham's bosom.
 - c. It is possible it did, and it is also possible it did not since God knew His Son would raise Lazarus from the dead.
 - d. It is safe to assume there was a reversal of the decay that his body was already experiencing.
3. One day all will hear the voice of the Son of God and come forth from their graves. (Jn. 5:28-29).

Comment:

1. Jesus had raised others from the dead - the widow's son at a Nain and Jairius' daughter. See Notes Jn. 11:1.
2. The raising of Lazarus is the best known of the resurrections of Jesus.

3. Some were even raised at His death. (Matt. 27:50-53).

Matt. 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Matt. 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Matt. 27:52 The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Matt. 27:53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Many Jews Believed Because Of Lazarus' Resurrection

John 11:45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.

1. This resurrection was so convincing that many of the Jews concluded Jesus must be God's Son and they "believed in Him."
2. Jesus had raised a man from the dead and more than that a man who had been dead four days. (Jn. 11:17).

Some Jews Reported To Pharisees

John 11:46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

1. The raising of Lazarus divided the multitude as in John 7:41-43; 9:16 and 10:17-19.

John 7:41 Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?"

John 7:42 "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"

John 7:43 So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him.

John 9:16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

John 10:17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

John 10:18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

John 10:19 A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words.

2. Why they went to the Pharisees is not explained.
3. They could not deny the miracle, but it evidently did not lead them to believe Jesus was God's Son.
4. They wanted to please the Pharisees so they immediately informed them what had occurred.
5. Even miracles such as a man being raised from the dead do not create faith in those whose hearts are hardened by sin and blinded by their preconceived ideas.
6. Jesus taught this in the account of the rich man and Lazarus. (Lk.16:27-31).

Luke 16:27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house--

Luke 16:28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Luke 16:29 "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

Luke 16:30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'

Luke 16:31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- a. Jesus emphasized that those who refused to hear God's word would not be convinced to believe in Him even if they witnessed a resurrection.
- b. The context of John 11 reveals that even those who could not deny the resurrection of Lazarus were not led to believe in Jesus.
- c. There are some today who would refuse to believe even if they witnessed a resurrection.
- d. Their evil hearts will not permit them to accept or believe in anything that would lead them to turn from their corrupt ways and live for Christ.
- e. They would attempt to explain the resurrection with any explanation except one that would create faith in God and His Son.

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