

John 11:41-44 – Lazarus Raised from the Dead

9/3/16 Sat Morn Prayer

HYMN # 22 – Breath On Me Breath Of God

1. *Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*
2. *Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*
3. *Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*
4. *Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

In My Life Lord Be Glorified!

*In my life Lord be glorified, be glorified, In my life Lord, be glorified today.
In my song Lord be glorified, be glorified, In my song Lord, be glorified today.
In Your church Lord be glorified, be glorified, In Your church Lord, be glorified today.*

Joh 11:41-44 *Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. [42] And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." [43] Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" [44] And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

Context/Biblical Background – The raising of Lazarus: Purpose that God would be glorified and the Son of God glorified through it! Last week, the nobleman's son was healed!

While our Lord and His disciples were in beyond the Jordan, near to where John was baptizing at first, word came to Him that Lazarus of Bethany was sick. However, when Jesus received the news, He stayed two more days before journeying to Bethany. When He arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had died. In fact, He had already been in the tomb four days. Both Martha and Mary were upset the Jesus had taken so long in coming. They took Him to the tomb. The emphasis from this point on was on the faith of the spectators, the people who had come to comfort Mary and Martha. Jesus paused to pray and thanked the Father that the prayer had already been heard. When had He prayed? Probably when He received the message that His friend was sick (Joh 11:4). The Father then told Him what the plan was, and Jesus obeyed the Father's will. His prayer now was for the sake of the unbelieving spectators, that they might know that God had sent Him.

JESUS PRAYS AT THE TOMB OF LAZARUS!

1 - (Vs. 41-42) Jesus prays at the tomb of Lazarus.

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying:

This was a definite and remarkable step of faith. Jesus compelled Martha and Mary to act on their faith and they did by obeying Jesus and His unusual request.

- We see that Jesus dealt with Martha according to steps **deliberately intended to stretch and build her faith.**
- Jesus gave **her a promise**
- Jesus drew **attention to Himself**
- Jesus **called upon her to confess her faith**
- Jesus **called her to act on her faith**

Jesus lifted up His eyes and said:

Jesus likely had the traditional posture of prayer - hands raised, eyes open upwards as if looking towards heaven.

Father, I thank You that You have heard Me:

Jesus was confident in His relationship with God the Father. The public **nature of the prayer was for the sake of Mary, Martha, and the people who are standing by.** The **power of the prayer was rooted in the private prayer times** of Jesus.

- No long, fancy words, no wrestling in prayer even; but simple words of thanksgiving, as if Lazarus had already returned.
- "During His humiliation on earth, **these acts of power were done by Him, not by that glory of His own** which He had laid aside, but by the mighty working of the Father in Him and in answering His prayer.

2. (Vs. 43-44) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go.

He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth!

Jesus simply called Lazarus out of the tomb. Others whom God used to raise dead bodies in the Scriptures often used far more elaborate procedures

Cried with a loud voice:

A loud decisive tone of authority.

- The loud voice was not, of course, because a loud voice was needed to make the dead hear. Probably it was in part at least, so that the crowd could know that this was no work of magic, but the very power of God. Mediums and wizards mutter their incantations and spells, but not the Son of God.
- In John 5:28, Jesus had said that a time would come when all who were in their graves would hear his voice. This occasion was a single demonstration of that authority.

Lazarus, come forth! Jesus spoke to a dead body as if Lazarus were alive because He is *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did* (Romans 4:17).

- The words spoken were brief, direct, and imperative in command. They can be paraphrased, 'Lazarus! This way out!' as if Jesus were directing someone lost in a gloomy dungeon.
- If this voice of Christ had been directed to all the dead, they could all have risen and come out!

And he who had died came out: Jesus fought death at Lazarus tomb, and plundered the grave. Jesus told death the He would soon completely conquer it completely.

His face was wrapped with a cloth: Lazarus was not resurrected, but resuscitated. He arose bound in grave-clothes, for he would need them again; **Jesus left His grave-clothes behind in His tomb, never again having need of them.**

- "How he moved I do not know. Some of the old writers thought that he glided, as it were, through the air, and that this was part of the miracle. I think he may have been so bound that though he could not freely walk yet he could shuffle along like a man in a sack." (Spurgeon)

Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go. Jesus did not miraculously remove the grave-clothes from Lazarus, **but He asked attendants to do so.** Jesus did **what only God could do**, and then **He looked for man's cooperation for the completion of Lazarus deliverance.**

- "The man was wholly raised, but not wholly freed. See, here is *a living man in the garments of death!*" (Spurgeon)
- "What a man can do for himself God will not do for him, and what Christian people can do for sinners they must not expect the Lord to do, they must work themselves according to the ability God has given them up to the point of possibility, and then they may look for divine interposition." (Spurgeon)
- The experience of Lazarus is a good illustration of what happens to a sinner when he trusts the Savior (Eph 2:1-10). Lazarus was dead, and all sinners are dead. He was decayed, because death and decay go together. **All lost people are spiritually dead, but some are more "decayed" than others. No one can be "more dead" than another.**
- Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of God, and **all who trust Christ have been given new life and lifted out of the graveyard of sin** (see Joh 5:24). Lazarus was set free from the graveclothes (see Col 3:1) and given new liberty. **You find him seated with Christ at the table** (Joh 12:2), and **all believers are "seated with Christ" in heavenly places** (Eph 2:6), enjoying spiritual food and fellowship.
- **God's love for His own is not a pampering love; it is a perfecting love.** The fact that He loves us, and we love Him is **no guarantee that we will be sheltered from the problems and pains of life.**
- Jesus could have prevented Lazarus' sickness or even healed it from where He was; but He chose not to. **He saw in this sickness an opportunity to glorify the Father.**
- When we find ourselves confronted by disease, disappointment, delay, and even death, our **only encouragement is the Word of God.** We must live by faith and not by sight. Their situation seemed hopeless, yet the sisters knew that Jesus was the Master of every situation.
- Note His promise in **Psa 50:15 "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."**

SUMMARY:

- **Question:** In the midst of the troubles of life, **how are you faring in fulfilling the reason that God has kept you here on earth?**
- **It is not important that we Christians are comfortable, but it is important that we glorify God in all that we do.**
- **Jesus waited 4 days - "There is a stench" a complete miracle! Some believed; some did not!**
- **How is your faith? Are you drawing nearer to Him with each disappointment and problem in life?**
- **Are you working His works for night is coming when no man can work?**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- **Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority**
- **Our Current Pres/VP Candidates: Donald Trump; Hillary Clinton; Mike Pence; Tim Kaine**
- **Police officers/military & all those upholding law & order**
- **When in small groups - Personal Prayers:**

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