



## Lesson 47 – “Lazarus, Come Forth!”

Based on Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44.

1) How does our lesson begin today?

**Luke 10:38-39** Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named \_\_\_\_\_ received him into her house. And she had a sister called \_\_\_\_\_, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest. The Saviour had no home of His own; He was dependent on the hospitality of His friends and disciples, and often, when weary, thirsting for human fellowship, He had been glad to escape to this peaceful household, away from the suspicion and jealousy of the angry Pharisees. Here He found a sincere welcome, and pure, holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured.

In the home at Bethany Christ found rest from the weary conflict of public life. Here He opened to an appreciative audience the volume of Providence. In these private interviews He unfolded to His hearers that which He did not attempt to tell to the mixed multitude. He needed not to speak to His friends in parables.

2) Martha was getting perturbed during Jesus' visit, why?

**Luke 10:40** But Martha was cumbered about much \_\_\_\_\_, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

This was the time of Christ's first visit to Bethany. The Saviour and His disciples had just made the toilsome journey on foot from Jericho. Martha was anxious to provide for their comfort, and in her anxiety, she forgot the courtesy due to her Guest.

3) How did Jesus reply to her request?

**Luke 10:41-42** And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and \_\_\_\_\_ about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that \_\_\_\_\_ part, which shall not be taken away from her.

The “**one thing**” that Martha needed was a calm, devotional spirit, a deeper anxiety for knowledge concerning the future, immortal life, and the graces necessary for spiritual advancement. She needed less anxiety for the things which pass away, and more for those things which endure forever. Jesus would teach His children to seize every opportunity of gaining that knowledge which will make them wise unto salvation.

There is a wide field for the Marthas, with their zeal in active religious work. But let them first sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. Let diligence, promptness, and energy be sanctified by the grace of Christ; then the life will be an unconquerable power for good.

4) What happened some time later, that they would reach out to Jesus and seek Him?

**John 11:1-3** Now a certain man was sick, named \_\_\_\_\_, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her \_\_\_\_\_, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is \_\_\_\_\_.

Anxiously they waited for a word from Jesus. As long as the spark of life was yet alive in their brother, they prayed and watched for Jesus to come. But the messenger returned without Him.

5) What did He tell everyone when He heard this news?

**John 11:4** When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto \_\_\_\_\_, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.



When Christ heard the message, the disciples thought He received it coldly. He did not manifest the sorrow they expected Him to show.

- 6) What does the Bible say about how Jesus felt about these believers?  
**John 11:5** Now Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.
- 7) After two days of waiting, what did Jesus tell His Disciples?  
**John 11:7** Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into \_\_\_\_\_ again.
- 8) The Disciples laid another question on Jesus, what was it?  
**John 11:8** His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to \_\_\_\_\_ thee; and goest thou thither again?

The disciples questioned why, if Jesus were going to Judea, He had waited two days. But anxiety for Christ and for themselves was now uppermost in their minds. They could see nothing but danger in the course He was about to pursue.

- 9) What did Jesus reply with?  
**John 11:9-10** Jesus answered, Are there not twelve \_\_\_\_\_ in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man \_\_\_\_\_ in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

He who does the will of God, who walks in the path that God has marked out, cannot stumble and fall. The light of God's guiding Spirit gives him a clear perception of his duty and leads him aright till the close of his work. He who walks in a path of his own choosing, where God has not called him, will stumble. For him day is turned into night, and wherever he may be, he is not secure.

- 10) What did John record Jesus saying next?  
**John 11:11** These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus \_\_\_\_\_; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.
- 11) Did the Disciples understand?  
**John 11:12-13** Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do \_\_\_\_\_. Howbeit Jesus spake of his \_\_\_\_\_: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.
- 12) What cryptic thing did Jesus tell them?  
**John 11:14-15** Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is \_\_\_\_\_. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may \_\_\_\_\_; nevertheless let us go unto him.

How touching the words! How full of sympathy! In the thought of the peril their Master was about to incur by going to Jerusalem, the disciples had almost forgotten the bereaved family at Bethany. But not so Christ. The disciples felt rebuked. They had been disappointed because Christ did not respond more promptly to the message. They had been tempted to think that He had not the tender love for Lazarus and his sisters that they had thought He had, or He would have hastened back with the messenger.

- 13) What did Thomas have to say about it?  
**John 11:16** Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may \_\_\_\_\_ with him.

Thomas could see nothing but death in store for his Master if he went to Judea; but he girded up his spirit, and said to the other disciples, **"Let us also go, that we may die with Him."** He knew the hatred of the Jews toward Christ. It was their purpose to compass His death, but this purpose had not succeeded, because some of His allotted time still remained. During this time Jesus had the guardianship of heavenly angels; and even in the regions of Judea, where the rabbis were plotting how they might take Him and put Him to death, no harm could come to Him.



14) Why did Jesus wait for so long?

**John 11:15** And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may \_\_\_\_\_; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Had Christ been in the sickroom, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. Death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus in the presence of the Life-giver. Therefore, Christ remained away. He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that as they looked on the dead face of their brother their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. But He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing their faith would shine forth with far greater power. He suffered every pang of sorrow that they endured. He loved them no less because He tarried; but He knew that for them, for Lazarus, for Himself, and for His disciples, a victory was to be gained.

This crowning miracle, the raising of Lazarus, was to set the seal of God on His work and on His claim to divinity.

15) What scene did Jesus meet in Bethany?

**John 11:17-19** Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the \_\_\_\_\_ four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to \_\_\_\_\_ them concerning their brother.

16) How does Scripture say how the Sisters found out Jesus was there?

**John 11:20** Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but \_\_\_\_\_ sat still in the house.

The great outward display observed by the Jews at the death of friends or relatives was not in harmony with the spirit of Christ. He heard the sound of wailing from the hired mourners, and He did not wish to meet the sisters in the scene of confusion. Among the mourning friends were relatives of the family, some of whom held high positions of responsibility in Jerusalem. Among these were some of Christ's bitterest enemies. Christ knew their purposes, and therefore He did not at once make Himself known.

The message was given to Martha so quietly that others in the room did not hear. Absorbed in her grief, Mary did not hear the words. Rising at once, Martha went out to meet her Lord, but thinking that she had gone to the place where Lazarus was buried, Mary sat still in her sorrow, making no outcry.

17) What did Martha tell Jesus?

**John 11:21-22** Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not \_\_\_\_\_. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt \_\_\_\_\_ of God, God will give it thee.

18) How did Jesus encourage her?

**John 11:23** Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall \_\_\_\_\_ again.

19) Did she understand what He was about to do?

**John 11:24** Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the \_\_\_\_\_ day.

20) Still seeking to give direction to her faith, what did Jesus say?

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said unto her, I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_. he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never \_\_\_\_\_. Believest thou this?

Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His Word and His works, He declared Himself the Author of the resurrection



21) What did Martha do?

**John 11:27-28** She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I \_\_\_\_\_ that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and \_\_\_\_\_ Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

On hearing the message, Mary rose hastily, and with an eager look on her face left the room. Thinking that she had gone to the grave to weep, the mourners followed her. When she reached the place where Jesus was waiting, she knelt at His feet, and said with quivering lips, **“Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.”**

22) How did Jesus react to the cacophony of noise around the tomb?

**John 11:38** Jesus therefore again \_\_\_\_\_ in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

23) What happened next?

**John 11:39-40** Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he \_\_\_\_\_: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of God?

This statement, made before the raising of Lazarus, left no room for Christ’s enemies to say that a deception had been practiced. In the past the Pharisees had circulated false statements regarding the most wonderful manifestations of the power of God.

24) What did Jesus do?

**John 11:41-42** Then they took away the \_\_\_\_\_ 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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ could have commanded the stone to remove, and it would have obeyed His voice. He could have bidden the angels who were close by His side to do this. At His bidding, invisible hands would have removed the stone. But it was to be taken away by human hands. Thus, Christ would show that humanity is to co-operate with divinity. What human power can do divine power is not summoned to do. God does not dispense with man’s aid. He strengthens him, co-operating with him as he uses the powers and capabilities given him.

25) What did Christ do next?

**John 11:43** And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, divinity flashes through humanity. In His face, which is lighted up by the glory of God, the people see the assurance of His power. Every eye is fastened on the entrance to the cave. Every ear is bent to catch the slightest sound. With intense and painful interest all wait for the test of Christ’s divinity, the evidence that is to substantiate His claim to be the Son of God, or to extinguish the hope forever.

26) What happened?

**John 11:44** And he that was \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one emaciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for his Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus.

The beholders are at first speechless with amazement. Then there follows an inexpressible scene of rejoicing and thanksgiving. The sisters receive their brother back to life as the gift of God, and with joyful tears they brokenly express their thanks to the Saviour. But while brother, sisters, and friends are rejoicing in this reunion, Jesus withdraws from the scene. When they look for the Life-giver, He is not to be found.

Can you see Jesus has the power over death?

Is there anything that is blocking your faith in Him?

When is the time to lay that aside?