

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Dec 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #12: Divine Power

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time when you desperately wanted God to work a miracle.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read John 11:1-16

Note: God is far more concerned with growing our faith than with making us comfortable. Jesus said He was “glad” about the death of Lazarus, because He valued his friends’ faith over their tears.¹

1. What do we know from the text of Jesus’ relationship with this family? vv.1-5

2. What purpose did Jesus see in this sickness?

3. How did Jesus view the situation? Mary? Martha? The disciples?

Read John 11:17-27

4. How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived?

Note: Many Jews thought the soul remained near the body for three days after death in hopes of returning. After 4 days Lazarus was obviously beyond hope and irrevocably dead.

5. How would you feel if you were Martha or Mary and heard that Jesus had finally come?

6. What do we learn about Martha from her conversation with Jesus? vv. 21-27

7. How does Jesus interaction with Martha compare with the normal expressions of comfort at a funeral? Why does he turn the focus on Himself? vs. 25

Read John 11:28-37

8. What emotions do we see expressed by Jesus in these verses?

9. What expressions of faith do we see in Martha and Mary?

10. Why is faith in Jesus/God important? Heb 11:6

Read John 11:38-53

11. What does it mean to see the glory of God? vs. 40 John 1:14; 11:14; 12:16

12. What opposing reactions do we see in response to Jesus’ miracle? Why? vv. 45, 46, 53

APPLICATION

What are the areas in your life where you feel God is not “listening”?

How will your faith help you respond appropriately to Jesus’?

Keep in mind that salvation is not a set of rules; it is life (John 3:14–21, 36; 5:24; 10:10; 1 John 5:10–13). This life is a Person—Jesus Christ. When dead sinners hear the voice of the Son of God (the Word) and believe, they are given eternal life (John 5:25). To reject that Word is to be dead forever.²

Lazarus caused quite a stir in the area! People saw him and believed in Christ! In fact, he was a walking miracle, just as every Christian ought to be (Rom. 6:4). The great crowd that gathered on Palm Sunday came not only because of Jesus, but also because of Lazarus. In 12:11 we are told that Lazarus was causing people to trust Christ, but this kind of witness is the privilege and duty of every Christian.³

¹ Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Jn 11:14–15). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

^{2 2} Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 241). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.