



JOHN 11-- HEAR HIM THE SIGN OF LAZARUS

INTRODUCTION

We have been considering Who is Jesus...really?

There are so many opinions about His Identity and nature, but the Gospels are unapologetic about declaring that Jesus is both fully human and fully God. John begins His Gospel with the recognition of Jesus as “ the Living Expression of God”, and the sign of Lazarus we are considering today is as powerful as any declaration regarding who He is, and also His Purpose.

BACKGROUND

Merrill Tenney states that Jesus has been through a period of intense conflict with the leadership of the nation of Israel; so much so that it comes to a head with Him declaring that: “ He and the Father are one in essence.” ...a statement so shocking to the Jews that they are ready to kill Him :

“Since Jesus claimed to be one with the Father,

- Either He was joking, and was not serious;
- Or He was lying for the sake of effect;
- Or He was insane, and not responsible for His claims;
- Or His disciples misunderstood Him;
- Or He told the truth and was deity.” - John, the Gospel of Belief

Because of such plots against Him, Jesus has withdrawn away from Jerusalem and back into Galilee, where it is safer. And the call comes about Lazarus, who lives 7 miles from Jerusalem.

This sign demonstrates more than any other, not only Who Jesus really is, but also what His own future holds....

1. GODS DELAYS ARE NOT DENIALS

JOHN 11:1-15 NASB

- Read and discuss

If it seems to us that God waits longer than we desire, we must assume that Gods Plan for us, will be

a better outcome in the long term than our plan would have been for God.

Jesus delays to come to Lazarus, because this miracle is to be so much more than just another of the thousand of healings Jesus performed. This was:

- The Testimony of Jesus authority over Life and Death
- The Demonstration of His character and compassion
- The Promise of His own Resurrection...no matter the plans of persecution against Him
- The Heartbeat of the Father toward sickness, sin and death, and it's imminent reversal

2. LORD, IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE...

JOHN 11:17-27 NASB

- Read and discuss

KEYPOINT

- I am the resurrection and the life Jesus said...

He doesn't say I will be- but actually "I am - Now- the source of resurrection and life.."

The Cross lies ahead of Him, but in Jesus He already knows the outcome for His own suffering, not long ahead. In this moment of grief and doubt, Jesus is fearless in faith, and declares that the stone that keeps the dead trapped will be rolled away, just as Death itself will be. THIS IS FAITH...

3. THE COMPASSION OF THE CHRIST

JOHN 11:32-36 NASB

Read and discuss

The shortest verse of Scripture tells us the most about Jesus and His compassion.

The tears of man and the tears of heaven are comingled here- But what did Jesus weep for?

4. HEAR HIM

JOHN 11:38-45 NASB

Read and discuss

Jesus has already made it clear about the power of His Voice- See John 5:25 NASB.

We need to hear the voice of our Saviour - No other Voice has the Authority of Heaven, and the power of Life and Death like the voice of Jesus.

It's no wonder, it was impossible for Death to hold Him in its power.

CONCLUSION

Jesus still rolls stones away ...even the stones that surround our heart if we will just Hear Him