

Review: John 11:25 (NLT) ²⁵Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

- *In addition to Jesus correcting their understanding of who He was by turning them from the distant future to the immediate present, He fixes their eyes upon Himself!*

HEBREWS 12:2 (NASB) ²FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

SALVATION ANALOGY IN LUKE 11 REGARDING LAZARUS RESURRECTION

Bethany	The World
He came to Bethany to a funeral to demonstrate power over death	He came to the world (funeral) to triumph over death Ephesians 2:5 (NASB) ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
He came to Bethany, humbly and voluntarily.	He came to Earth, humbly and voluntarily. John 6:38 (NASB) ³⁸ “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
He came to Bethany to deal with death on a physical level.	He came to Earth to deal with death on a physical/spiritual level. John 10:10 (NASB) ¹⁰ “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have <i>it</i> abundantly.
He came to Bethany because a need existed: God’s glory.	He came to Earth because a need existed: God’s glory. John 3:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus wept:

Hebrews 2:17 - 18 (KJV) ¹⁷Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 - 16 (KJV) ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

John 11:38-45 (NLT)

³⁸JESUS WAS STILL ANGRY AS HE ARRIVED AT THE TOMB, A CAVE WITH A STONE ROLLED ACROSS ITS ENTRANCE.

- *John once again tells us that Jesus was deeply moved (see 11:33). Jesus’ agitation reveals his indignation and outrage that death, which is a result of sin, creates such destructive chaos and suffering in people’s lives.*

³⁹“ROLL THE STONE ASIDE,” JESUS TOLD THEM.

- *Lazarus was buried in a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Tombs at this time were usually caves carved in the limestone rock of a hillside. A tomb was often large enough for people to walk inside. Several bodies would be*

placed in one tomb. After burial, a large stone would be rolled across the entrance to the tomb. This burial spot was much like the one in which Jesus would be buried.

BUT MARTHA, THE DEAD MAN'S SISTER, PROTESTED, "LORD, HE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR FOUR DAYS. THE SMELL WILL BE TERRIBLE."

- *Jesus loved this family and often stayed with them. He knew their pain but did not respond immediately. His delay had a specific purpose. God's timing, especially his delays, may make us think he is not answering or is not answering the way we want. But he will meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19) according to his perfect schedule and purpose. Often when we pray, circumstances seem to actually worsen. We are tempted to doubt and despair. But delay itself builds patience. Our patience improves as we trust in his timing.*

⁴⁰JESUS RESPONDED, "DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOU WOULD SEE GOD'S GLORY IF YOU BELIEVE?"

- *The purpose of the whole event was for Jesus to exhibit the glory of God. Jesus had proclaimed this from the moment he heard about Lazarus's sickness (11:4). **Do you believe this miracle depended on the sister's belief in Jesus?***

⁴¹SO THEY ROLLED THE STONE ASIDE. THEN JESUS LOOKED UP TO HEAVEN AND SAID, "FATHER, THANK YOU FOR HEARING ME.

⁴²YOU ALWAYS HEAR ME, BUT I SAID IT OUT LOUD FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THESE PEOPLE STANDING HERE, SO THAT THEY WILL BELIEVE YOU SENT ME."

- *Because of Jesus' constant interaction with his Father, we can surmise that he had been praying about Lazarus for some time. Jesus was confident that his Father listened to him. His confidence, "I knew that you always hear me," was expressed for our benefit. He wants us to believe, and he said so (11:42).*

1 JOHN 5:14 - 15 (KJV) ¹⁴AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE IN HIM, THAT, IF WE ASK ANY THING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARETH US:

¹⁵AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEAR US, WHATSOEVER WE ASK, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE PETITIONS THAT WE DESIRED OF HIM.

- *Our prayers are arrogant if we assume how God will answer. Our prayers are confident if we affirm that God listens. Our confidence comes not from what we pray or how we pray, but to whom we pray. God does not require volume or repetition. The whispered simple prayer can easily get to God's ears! God hears when you pray according to 1 John 5:14-15!*
- *While the crowd waited beside the tomb—with the stone now rolled away from its entrance—Jesus praised his Father aloud, publicly, so that, upon witnessing the miracle of resurrection, the people might believe in Jesus. His prayer was not a petition, but a prayer of thanks to the Father. Jesus knew that his request would be answered!*

MATTHEW 6:8 (NLT) ⁸DON'T BE LIKE THEM, FOR YOUR FATHER KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED EVEN BEFORE YOU ASK HIM!

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 (NASB) ⁶BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD.

⁴³THEN JESUS SHOUTED, "LAZARUS, COME OUT!"

"Jesus had to call out Lazarus by name for if he hadn't, all the dead would have come out of their graves!" —Augustine (that may not be true, but it sounds exciting)

- *He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" (NKJV) The voice of Jesus is potent and lifegiving. Lazarus provided proof of Jesus' earlier words: **JOHN 5:25 (KJV)** ²⁵VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THE HOUR IS COMING, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE DEAD SHALL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD: AND THEY THAT HEAR SHALL LIVE.*

⁴⁴AND THE DEAD MAN CAME OUT, HIS HANDS AND FEET BOUND IN GRAVE CLOTHES, HIS FACE WRAPPED IN A HEAD CLOTH. JESUS TOLD THEM, “UNWRAP HIM AND LET HIM GO!”

- *Lazarus was completely wrapped in his grave clothes. There was no question that a dead man had come back to life. The miracle was not only Lazarus’s resuscitation. After four days, the body would have seriously decayed. Lazarus’s body was raised and restored.*
- *Jesus told them, “Unwrap him, and let him go.” The power he had just used to return Lazarus to the living could have easily disintegrated or loosed the wraps without help. But Jesus involved those around him in the happy labor of unwrapping Lazarus.*

⁴⁵MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH MARY BELIEVED IN JESUS WHEN THEY SAW THIS HAPPEN.

- *The wailing of grief transformed into shock and shouts of joy. The funeral atmosphere became a joyful celebration.*
- *Jesus was and is the giver of life. He brings a second birth to those who are dead in sin. But his gift of forgiveness and the indwelling Spirit do not create instant, perfect Christians. We enter Christ’s kingdom with many of the old wraps still around us. Old habits and sinful behaviors, painful memories—all these require gentle, loving removal. Like grave clothes, we no longer need them. We need fellow Christians and the Lord’s power to unwrap us. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!*

Monday Morning Moment:

“Our patience improves as we trust in his timing.”

James 1:3 (KJV) ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Homework Q & A: *(Please use scripture where possible to support your answers.)*

1. Why do you we find it easy to believe God will raise us from the grave in the future, but we struggle with God meeting our needs now in the present?
2. Who can you help “unwrap” this week?
3. Please define a “2nd Chair Christian.
4. Tell us how to move up from “Chair 2” Christians to “Chair 1” Christians?