- though it is past tense for John
- John identifies Mary as the same woman in both events to show this woman living according to her name
- O Very common name Jesus' mother was Mary ak 12627)

One of Two Lazarus' in Bible

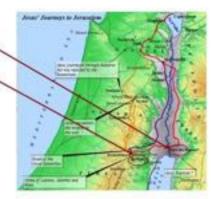
- Only two men named Lazarus appear in the Bible
 - Luke's Lazarus was very poor (Old Covenant) (12 16/1930)
 - John's Lazarus was relatively wealthy (New Covenant)
 - Both men died
 - Both men were helped of God; i.e., saved
 - Ergo, both men were loved of God
- Contrasts the Old versus the New Covenants (Ga + 21-31)

Only Three Raised from Dead

- Jesus only raised three people from the dead according to the Gospels
 - O Little girl {12 y/o} Daughter of Synagogue Ruler
 - O Young man {Poss. 20s} Son of widow
- Lazarus' raising will be different
 - Above deaths were very recent
 - Lazarus will be in the grave four days Decaying flesh

Christ Not Far From Lazarus

- Jesus location when He is told of Lazarus' illness
- Lazarus lives in Bethany
- Bethany on east slope of Mount of Olives
- Jerusalem on west slope of Mount of Olives



Receiving the News

- Messenger comes from Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus, informing Jesus, "...he whom You love is ill."
 - Jesus was asked to prevent the death of the little girl
 - Jesus was not asked to raise the widow's son
 - Here, Jesus was expected to heal Lazarus, prevent his death, based on His feelings for Lazarus
 - This subtle manipulation possibly hid their own personal motive for keeping Lazarus alive

Jesus Unmoved by Favoritism

- Mary and Martha were probably focused on their need: keeping Lazarus, their sole support, alive
 - Their phrase, "...he whom YOU loved...", was not even a plea for Lazarus or an expression of their concern
 - Their expectation was for Jesus to hop on down and do His thing
 - Flesh (sin) ruins every good intention; Jesus will test their faith to expand their understanding of the Gospel

Man's vs. God's Goals

- The sisters' request, grounded in physical, narrow concerns, did not consider Lazarus' desires
 - The women cannot see beyond this physical life
 - Healing Lazarus would only satisfy the sisters' needs
 - While alive Lazarus probably wished to live; however, Lazarus would be in Abraham's bosom like the other Lazarus after death; why would he want to return? @k 1620

Jesus' Love Incomprehensible

- This is the second time John has presented Christ, and therefore God, in a questionable moral or ethical light by man's standards to glorify the Father and Son 060 35581
 - Man born blind designed for God's glory; ergo, God designed him blind until Jesus healed him (40 years??)
 - Jesus delayed going to Lazarus, allowing him to die, to illustrate God's power and glory over death

Jesus You Do Not Know

- Throughout John Jesus has been abrupt, moving according to the Father's, not man's, plan
 - Lost man sees this as proof that God is uncaring
 - O God gives man unimpeachable evidence of His life
- Lost man, and many Christians, want a fluffy Jesus who seeks social good limited to this life,; however, this ignores Christ's good: changed nature with eternal life

Lazarus Dies for God's Glory

- Christ plainly states that this illness occurred to bring glory to God and to the Son
 - Illness does not lead to death Separation from God
 - If God raises a man from the grave after four days then He can raise His Son from the grave after three days
 - Lazarus foreshadows Ezekiel's valley of dry bones, rebirth
 - This will also change the faith of: sisters, apostles, etc.

Jesus Waits for Two Days

- Jesus did not have to go to Lazarus; He could have just spoken and Lazarus would have been healed 04 85 439
- Imagine the challenge of faith for Lazarus and his sisters when he dies; what will become of them?
- Waiting on the Lord, learning His ways which are far different from our own plans and thoughts (0.40.2731)

Apostles' Faiths Also Tested

- Christ readies to go to Lazarus; return to Judea
 - Apostles state He was nearly stoned there; why return?
 - This event occurred after Hanukkah but before Pesach
 - O Lazarus' death was OK to protect themselves, and Him
 - Jesus upbraids them: they must work in the light to not stumble; those who work at night will stumble and fail
 - They were raised in darkness, how hard to live in light

Lazarus Sleeps

- Christ states Lazarus sleeps, He goes to awaken Him
 - Apostles take this to mean that Lazarus will recover; i.e., they do not need to go to Judea
 - Christ tells them plainly: Lazarus has died
- Falling asleep or sleeping is euphemism for death of saved
 - Christians depicted as falling sleep, even with violent deaths on 53843. Ac 760

Lazarus' Miracle for Apostles

- Christ clearly states that the raising of Lazarus would strengthen the Apostles' faith
 - If Jesus could raise Lazarus then God could raise Him from the dead so they should not lose faith at His death
 - However, from other gospels we know that they did lose faith and did not expect Him to rise from the dead
 - Shows that if God gave us miraculous healing powers, man still would not believe in Christ and be saved – Sin

Let Us Go Die With Him

- Thomas urges his fellow Apostles to follow Jesus and die with Him
 - Air of resignation rather than demonstration of faith
 - Loyalty not yet tested, for the night of His arrest they will all flee to protect themselves 046 1446-503
- The twenty mile walk to Bethany must have been very somber: death and expecting death {Except Christ}

Jesus Comes to Bethany

- As Jesus arrives in Bethany He is told Lazarus has been dead four days; something He already knew
 - Bethany being only two miles or so from Jerusalem meant that Lazarus' many friends were attending the funeral and subsequent activities
 - These would all be witnesses of this very public healing
 - Their news would disturb the Sadducees and Pharisees

Martha Comes to Meet Jesus

- Martha {The Mistress} comes to meet Jesus, she is the take charge, do it woman of the manor; yet, coming to Jesus displays self-humility and great respect to Christ
 - Mary (Beloved) remains in the house seated which is a sign of authority, or pride (Cathedra - Latin for chair)
 - Conveys idea of aloofness, blaming Jesus for Lazarus' death; i.e., He can explain to me why Lazarus died leaving my future uncertain!

No One Understands Jesus

- This event occurred near the end of Jesus' ministry
 - He has taught His Apostles for three years
 - Lazarus and family are staunch in faith concerning Him
 - O Yet, no one really understood His calling
 - Their expectations were still grounded in Jewish eschatology: rulership in this creation
 - After nearly 600 years of mulling over the New Covenant, no one understand what it was or what it meant (6: 31:31-34)

Subtleties Explain Christ' Delay

- Subtleties give context explaining why Christ delayed
 - Mary and Martha, though, believers, were focused on physical needs rather than spiritual needs
 - Apostles' faiths were weak; unsure of Christ's talk of His coming death, burial and resurrection
 - Public reversal of death would confront the Sadducees and Pharisees with another undeniable sign revealing them as false shepherds, rejecting Christ and His truths