

John 11:32–45

- ³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”
- ³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.
- ³⁴ And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”
- ³⁵ Jesus wept.
- ³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”
- ³⁷ And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”
- ³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.
- ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”
- ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”
- ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.
- ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”
- ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”
- ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”
- ⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

“The Miracle” John 11:32-45

INTRO:

John 11 is the record of the very last pre-crucifixion “sign” Jesus performed in the Gospel of John. It is not surprising that some say it was His greatest. He said prior to His act that He was and is the resurrection and the Life. Then He brought Lazarus back from the grave to prove His

words. Let us take a tour through John's divine record of this event and see if we can glean some blessings here.

I. Jesus Wept (v.32-36).

II. Jesus Raises Lazarus (v. 36-42).

I. Jesus Wept (v.32-36).

"Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.' Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how He loved him!'"

John 11:32-36

A. Mary came to Jesus and said the very same thing Martha said. However, the Jewish leaders, who were there to comfort the sisters, came with Mary.

B. Why did John include **verses 33-35**? This is the important question which we must answer to interpret these words.

1. The Greek Words translated *"He groaned in the spirit and was troubled"* is a word which usually indicates anger. So, the thought is that Jesus might have been angry.

2. Some add that this can mean to snort like a horse. Clearly, Jesus made no audible sound because the onlookers saw His tears in **verse 35** and said they showed His love for Lazarus.

C. First let us consider the setting of the first statement. **Verse 33** says, *"Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled."*

If there was anger here, it was the result of His seeing and hearing the wailing and sorrow present there. Keep in mind that the funeral customs (i.e. at least two flute players and a wailing woman) were not unlike our sending flowers.

1. In the other places this word is used in the New Testament, the idea of anger is not always present. In **Mark 1:43**, after cleansing the leper we read, *"And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once."*

Our verb is translated, *"He sternly warned him."* This does not seem to imply anger.

2. A second place we find it is in **Matthew 9:30**. *"And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, 'See that no one knows it.'"*

3. It seems likely its use in **Mark 14:5** might have implied anger. *"For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply."*

This was criticism for Mary's pouring her alabaster box of ointment on Jesus.

D. It is likely the Apostle John was making the point the writer to the Hebrews made in **Hebrews 4:14–15**.

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tried as we are, yet without sin.

II. Jesus Raises Lazarus (v. 37-42).

“Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, ‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’” John 11:38-40

A. Now we arrive at the scene of the very miracle. Jesus went with Mary, Martha, and the Jews to the graveside. In those days most Jews buried their dead in a cave. Lazarus was no exception. When they arrived, Jesus asked for the stone to be removed. Martha again takes center stage. Being the realist, she pointed out that Lazarus has been dead and buried four days already. Decay has set in and the smell would be bad.

1. Do you remember the statement about the healing of the blind man in **John 9:32**? ***“Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.”***

2. A similar statement could be made about the resurrection of Lazarus. There had been other resurrections, but never one of someone dead and buried for four days!

B. Our Lord told Martha something which shows we were not privy to every word which passed between Martha and Jesus.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’”

Our Lord gave Martha a promise, if only she believed.

C. The stone was rolled away and the smell of decay filled the air. Then Jesus did something amazing.

“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” (verses 41-42)

He prayed like this so that the Jews hearing Him would recognize the Father had sent Him.

D. Now comes the Miracle. To properly set the stage let me remind you of something Jesus said in **John 5:25**.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”

As Jesus cried out with the divine imperative calling Lazarus to come back to life, Lazarus heard. He was physically restored. He did not look like a zombie. He was totally physically

alive. He heard the Lord's command and life returned to his lifeless body. The body came back to life with no smell of decay. He waddled or maybe hopped out of the grave. An undeniable miracle happened.

E. What do we learn?

1. John wrote all this for us to understand our God is not a *"God who didn't care who lives a way out there."*

2. John also wrote this so we would understand that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. What happened when we were saved? In **Ephesians 2** we read how we were dead in our trespasses and sin. Then God in His great grace *"raised us up together with Christ."*

3. Resurrection still happens today when people believe. They have eternal life which will never end.

Hymn #522 He Lifted Me