**John XI John 11 Jesus Raises Lazarus**

Last week: Jesus heals a man born blind.

In John 9:1-41 Jesus claims to be the light of the world (John 9:5) and he heals a man born blind.

Jesus showed that he is the light of the world on perhaps the very day of the Illumination of the Temple, completing his fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus gives glory to God, he demonstrates who he is (the light of the world) and he creates faith in the man born blind.

What healed him? Was it the saliva or the waters of the Pool of Siloam?

In order for us to be “healed” or to be able to “see” we need three things:

Faith in Jesus.

Full obedience.

The saving power of Jesus.

In this story blindness is a metaphor for spiritual blindness and sin.

The man born blind comes to see:

v. 11 the man named Jesus.

v. 17 the Prophet. (Deut 18:15-18)

v. 33 he is from God.

v. 38 Lord, I believe!!!

The parents are blind, not because they could not see the truth for themselves, but because they are not willing to stand up for the truth against opposition.

The Jewish leaders are blind because they claim they can see—that they do not have a problem.

What about you? How badly do you want to “see”?

Today:

John 11:1-44 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

We are continuing the pattern of Jesus using one of his physical signs as testimony to support one of his claims about himself.

John 6 Makes bread I AM the bread of life

John 9 I AM the light of the world gives sight to the man born blind

John 11 I AM the resurrection and the life resurrects Lazarus.

This episode includes I AM statement #5

I AM the bread of life 6:35

I AM the light of the world 8:12, 9:5

I AM the door (and the gate) 10:7

I AM the good shepherd 10:1,14

I AM the resurrection and the life 11:25

I AM the Way the Truth and the Life 14:6

I AM the true vine 15:1

(Note that we skipped I AM statements #3,4 in John 10)

And sign #7

Sign #1 Water to wine John 2:1-11

Sign #2 Healing of official’s son John 4:43-54

Sign #3 healing at pool of Bethesda John 5:1-5

Sign #4 Feeding of 5000 John 6:1-14

Sign #5 Walking on water John 6:16-21

Sign #6 Healing the man born blind John 9:1-12

Sign #7 Jesus raises Lazarus John 11:1-44

In this, the ultimate of the signs of Jesus, John is calling you and I to make a decision whose side we are on!

John 11:1-16 Jesus sets up the resurrection scene.

Lazarus, Mary and Martha are from Bethany

v. 5 Lazarus, Mary and Martha were very close friends of Jesus—closer than some of the apostles.

Mary is the one who anointed Jesus’ body for burial and wiped his feet with her hair. (John 12:1-3) (interesting point: John assumes that most of his readers already know about this even though he has not gotten to it in his own gospel, in the next chapter. Apparently, this was common knowledge.)

Bethany is very close to Jerusalem. It is just the other side of the Mount of Olives. Jesus is on his final trip to Jerusalem, where he will die.

v. 3 “The one you love is sick.” In this section, we can see that Jesus knows exactly what he is doing. v. 6 so he stayed away two more days.

v. 4 This is so that the Son may glorify the Father. Here is this theme, repeated so many times in John. (glory to God, explains who he is and creates faith in God)

This sickness will not end in death. Irony.

v. 7 OK, now it is time to go. The apostles are dumbfounded. If you are going to go, why not go when you heard Lazarus was deathly ill? Besides, it is REALLY dangerous. They are trying to kill you there.

v. 11 Lazarus is sleeping (sleeping is a euphemism for death for the Jews)

v. 12 If he is sleeping he will get better. They both misunderstood Jesus and were looking for a reason not to go to the very dangerous Jerusalem where they might be killed.

v. 14 Jesus frustrated. He is dead! Now I will go so that you may believe.

[Jesus is going to Bethany so that YOU may believe]

v. 16 “Doubting” Thomas ready to die: His faith is rather impressive for such a doubter.

John 11:17-37 Jesus comes to Bethany.

The setting: Lazarus has been dead for four days already.

Martha goes out to Jesus while Mary stays home. (the opposite of what happened in Luke 10:38-40 when Jesus said “Martha, Martha.”)

v. 21 Jesus, if only you had been here. But even now… Martha has great faith.

v. 23 Jesus tests her faith a bit. Your brother will rise with all humanity at the last time.

Jesus: I AM statement #5 I AM the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.

Not I offer resurrection.

Not I have the power to resurrect a person.

No! I, I AM *ego eimi*

I AM the resurrection and the life. A claim of deity!

Jesus is our hope! Both in this life and in the afterlife!

v. 27 Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God who is to come into the world. (note the similarity to Peter’s confession in Matthew 16)

Question for you: Do you truly believe with the same kind of faith that Martha believed?

Then you will never die!

v. 28-31 Martha tells Mary. Mary runs out to meet Jesus.

v. 33 Jesus deeply moved (again in v. 38) Great pathos.

v. 35 Jesus wept. Why? Compassion.

To God death is not really a problem. He does not mourn when we die, but Jesus, nevertheless, wept. God feels what we feel. God has deep emotions.

John 11:38-44 The most dramatic scene in John—maybe in the entire New Testament.

v. 39 Take away the stone.

Many of us have been dead in our sin. Spiritually, we were Lazarus. Hopeless. Laying in a spiritual tomb. No chance. We really stunk! Anyone could see the situation.

Jesus says, “Take away the stone.”

Only Jesus can take away your stone.

v. 39 Martha: But Lord….

But you do not understand. The situation is hopeless. Her life has really been stinking it up. There is rot and destruction and degradation. You are talking about life-long habits. No one has ever survived this level of sin and loss.

Jesus: Roll away the stone.

v. 40 Jesus: Will you believe? Only if you believe can you see God’ glory. (John 8:31, John 11, etc. When we believe we see God’s glory.)

v. 43 Lazarus, come out!

Jesus says to you, Come out! Come out from your sin. Come out from your spiritual death.

v. 44 Jesus says, “Unbind him.” He says the same about us. He says about the sin you are enslaved to, “Unbind her.”

And thus Jesus performed his greatest miracle.

Jesus did his miracles out in the open, in front of both believers and his most hardened skeptics. Folks, this really happened. This is the only possible conclusion.

John 11:45-51

v. 45 Many… believed in him. I love how understated the Bible is. I would think so!

v. 46 But… But what about you????

v. 46 Some went to the Pharisees. Did they believe Jesus worked miracles? Did these Pharisees who decided to kill him believed Jesus did the miracle?

Yes! That is why they killed him.

They believed, but they did not believe. Everyone at that time believed that Jesus worked wondrous signs.

v. 48 is ironic. (and it happened in AD 70 because they did NOT believe in him)

v. 50 is very ironic. It is better that one man should die for the people, rather than the entire nation perish.

An accidental prophecy. The Jewish leaders accidentally fulfilled many prophecies, such as the 30 pieces of silver, the crucifixion, the piercing and much more. God is in control!!!

John’s challenge to the reader: Which are you? John offers a stark choice. Will you believe and, by believing, have life in his name (John 20:29-31).

In Jesus day, people either worshipped him as king or wanted him killed as dangerous. Why do so many today have a wimpy reaction to Jesus. Yes, I believe Jesus was a good guy.

v. 53 The plot is launched.

v. 55 The Passover is at hand. Jesus no longer says “My time has not yet come.”

His time has come!!! The Passover lamb will soon enter Jerusalem to die for the people.

John 12. A transition. Last chapter in “The Book of Signs.” The signs are now completed, but the passion narrative has not quite started.

1. During this chapter we enter Jerusalem.

2. The public ministry of Jesus comes to an end.

3. The “Book of Signs” ends and the “Book of the Passion” begins

Theme of John 12: The glorification of the king

1. His anointing.

2. His triumphal entry.

3. God: I will glorify your name

4. Jesus will be “lifted up.”

John 12:1-3 Jesus is being prepared for burial.

12:12 The passion story begins as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

The scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem is similar to the crowds who welcomed Simon Maccabeus into Jerusalem with shouts of praise and waving palm branches (1 Maccabees 13:51)

Crowd shouts Hosannah (save us now) Sounds like Psalm 118:22-26, a psalm which was read at Passover. The crowd is hailing Jesus as king and Messiah. Their political deliverer.

Jesus rides in on a donkey. Warriors ride in on horses. He comes in peace, not as a conquering king.

Irony: He will be made king and he will be glorified, but not how the people think.

v. 9-11 and 17-18 Lazarus is causing troubles for Jesus. The raising of Lazarus is very much in the air and everyone knows it. Bethany is less than two miles from Jerusalem. Today it is within Jerusalem.

12:19 irony The whole world has gone after him(prophetic)

12:23 The hour has come. The time is here. The stage is set. All is prepared. No turning back now. This leads to 12:24

12:24-26 The closest to a parable in John. Living for Jesus is like a grain of wheat which dies, and therefore produces much fruit. Jesus is obviously talking about himself, but he is also talking about us. “Hate your life” = willing to die for Jesus.

Glorification through death.