

The Gospel of John

Lazarus

John 11:1-44

The greatest miracle performed by Christ was almost His last chronologically. With the cross fast approaching, He performed the ultimate of miracles: raising a dead man. This miracle was unmistakable and irrefutable. It was the last major display of Christ's power before the Cross.

The Setting

- Christ is still dwelling away from the Jews probably near Aenon – 10:40
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are friends of Christ who live in Bethany
- Bethany was on the east side of the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem.

The Story

- At Aenon
 - Christ's friend Lazarus is deathly ill, and Christ is called to heal him – vs. 1-3
 - Christ delays His coming – vs. 4-7
 - The disciples question the safety of going – vs. 8
 - Christ replies that He knows what He is doing – vs. 9-10
 - Christ reveals that Lazarus is dead – vs. 11-15
 - Thomas speaks – vs. 16
 - He speaks also in John 14:5 and John 20:24
 - When compared to the rest of Thomas's sayings, there appears to be a mixture of belief and unbelief in his words here. He does not shy away from the danger but seems resigned to die "with him". Whether the "him" being Christ or Lazarus makes no real difference as in either case he is dead.
- At Bethany
 - The days of mourning over Lazarus – vs. 17-19
 - Martha meets Christ before entering the town – vs. 20-22
 - She mixes belief and unbelief. She blames Christ for not being there to heal Lazarus but still holds some hope.
 - Christ tells of Lazarus' raising, Martha misses it – vs. 23-24
 - The faith of Martha – vs. 25-27
 - Mary goes to meet Christ and the mourners follow – vs. 28-31
 - Mary blames Christ – vs. 32
 - She expresses faith that Christ could have healed her brother but does not express any hope for the present.

- Christ is moved by compassion on those mourning – vs. 33-35
 - He is not weeping because Lazarus died. He knows what He is going to do.
- The varied reactions of the Jews:
 - Some marvel at His love for his friend – vs. 36
 - Others blame Christ – vs. 37
- At the grave
 - Christ approaches the tomb and Jesus commands the tomb unsealed – vs. 38-40
 - Christ's prayer – vs. 41-42
 - Lazarus is raised by the command of the Lord – vs. 43-44