

Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson 2—Signs of Divinity

Thursday: The Resurrection of Lazarus

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- **Last Week:** “Signs that Point the Way”
 - First 3 signs / miracles that Jesus performed
 - Signs of faith & signs of Jesus as Messiah
 - John 2, 4 & 5
 - Wedding at Cana; Nobleman’s son; Pool of Bethesda
- **This Week:** “Signs of Divinity”
 - John 6, 9 & 11 – specific signs / miracles that point to Christ’s divinity
 - Study 3 miracles & the people’s response to those miracles
 - Feeding of the 5k – John 6
 - Man born blind – John 9
 - Raising Lazarus from the dead – John 11

Memory Text: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25, 26, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Feeding of the Five Thousand (James)
 - John 6:1 – 14 – parallels between this sign / miracle & Israel’s experience
 - Signs & wonders in context for the Jewish people (4th sign)
- 2. **Monday:** “Surely, He is the Prophet” (SQ)
 - John 6 – confusion & disappointment of the people / failed to understand His mission
 - First of the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 1 (Daniel)
 - John 9:1 – 16 – 6th sign – connection between sin & sickness
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Healing of the Blind Man: Part 2 (John D)
 - John 9:19 – 34 – dialogue between religious leaders & blind man / response of the crowd
 - Blind man gains clearer sight / insight while religious leaders become blind
- 5. **Thursday:** The Resurrection of Lazarus (Jill)
 - John 11

Thursday: The Resurrection of Lazarus

John 11

- 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus
 - 1. Jesus showed He was Bread of Life (John 6:35)
 - By feeding the 5k hungry (John 6)

- 2. Jesus showed He was the light of the world (John 8:12)
 - By giving the blind man sight (John 9)
 - Opening the eyes of the Scribes & Pharisees to their own sins, instead of the woman caught in adultery (John 8)
- 3. Jesus showed He was the Door (John 10:7, 9)
 - By expressing He was the only way to salvation
- 4. Jesus showed He was the Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
 - By exposing the wolf-like activity of the religious leaders of the day
 - (how the scribes & Pharisees treated the man born blind in John 9)
- 5. Jesus showed He was the only Way, Truth & Life (John 14:6)
 - By answering disciples' question on where He was going
 - Thomas: "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" (John 14:5)
- 6. Jesus showed He was the True Vine (John 15:1, 5)
 - By explaining how His disciples could be closely connected with Him
- 7. Here, Jesus shows He is the resurrection & the life (John 11:25)
 - By raising Lazarus from the dead
- **The Resurrection of Lazarus: John 11**
 - This miracle precipitated the events that led Jesus to the Cross
 - Last of the 7 signs / miracles of John
 - How can there be love when there's death?
 - How can love allow a trial?
 - How can love not answer your prayer?
 - How can love still trust and believe – even when in pain?
 - How can love change us?
 - How can love set us free?

10 Takeaways from Resurrection of Lazarus

- John 11:1 – 3 – "Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (2) It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. (3) Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom You **love** is sick.'"
 - **Takeaway #1: Love asks with confidence & assurance**
 - Mary & Martha were confident in their relationship with Jesus
 - Not afraid to ask
 - Not afraid to tell Him their needs
 - Confident He would listen - & not just listen, but help
- John 11:4 – "When Jesus heard *that*, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death, but **for the glory of God**, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'"
 - **Takeaway #2: Love keeps the bigger picture in mind**
 - What we see as devastating – might be part of God's plan
 - Sickness – glory of God

- Divorce – glory of God
 - Job loss – glory of God
 - Betrayal of a friend – glory of God
 - Death – glory of God
 - Love demands an eternal perspective
- John 11:5, 6 – “Now Jesus **loved** Martha and her sister and Lazarus. (6) So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.”
 - **Takeaway #3: Love is not always easy to understand right now**
 - Love kept Jesus from going to heal Lazarus
 - Jesus’ delay brought – glory to God & spiritual growth to the disciples
 - The healing of Lazarus would have been a small miracle & would bring glory to God
 - The news of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead would be unstoppable
- John 11:7 - Then after this He said to *the* disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ (8) *The* disciples said to Him, ‘Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?’”
 - **Takeaway #4: Love is not afraid to take risks**
 - It was risky going back to Jerusalem / Judea
 - It would prove risky to raise Lazarus from the dead – would hasten Jesus’ death
 - When it is the will of God, love will take any risk, do anything
- John 11:16 – “Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with Him.’”
 - **Takeaway #5: Love begets sacrifice**
 - Did Thomas know what he was saying?
 - No, but love begets sacrifice
 - Thomas initially ran at the crucifixion
 - Later was martyred in India for his belief in Christ
 - Love awakens a desire to follow the One we love – to sacrifice
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- John 11:17, 21 – 22 – “(17) So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb **four days**.... (21) Now Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.’”
 - Tomb for 4 days - in contemporary Jewish belief, resuscitation was possible for 3 days after death.
 - Jesus’ delay sets the stage for an unstoppable miracle (an indisputable miracle)
 - **Takeaway #6: Love still trusts & believes – even in pain**
 - When all seems lost
 - When it’s the death of a loved one, a dream, a friendship
 - Love still trusts God
 - It’s the mother, crushed by sorrow, my son died, but I still trust You
 - My marriage crumbled, but I still trust You
 - My children won’t speak to me, but I still trust You
 - My job was terminated, but I still trust You
 - My friend won’t speak to me, but I still trust You

- John 11:23 - 27 - “Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ (24) Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ (25) Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (26) And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ (27) She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’”
 - **Takeaway #7: Love asks for radical faith & commitment**
 - Did Martha believe Jesus, or not?
 - Did she believe His word?
 - Did she believe His promise?
 - Martha trusted, regardless of the circumstances

- John 11:41 – “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.**’”
 - **Takeaway #8: Love expresses faith, even before the miracle occurs**
 - Jesus thanked God for the miracle before it even happened
 - Dead man (Lazarus) was lying there – Jesus thanks God that He heard
 - If you wait until you receive it – that’s not faith
 - That’s gratitude
 - Faith is
 - Believing God is doing something
 - God is working even though I don’t see it, when I don’t understand

- John 11:43 – 44a – “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...”
 - **Takeaway #9: Love’s word contains creative power & energy**
 - God’s Word had power in the beginning to create life
 - Gen 1:1 – “In the beginning, God **created** the heavens, and the earth.”
 - Created = Heb, *Bara* = verb, used only when God is subject, used of God’s activity to create something from nothing
 - Ps 51:10 – “**Create** in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (*Bara*)

- John 11:44b – “...(came out bound hand & foot)...Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’”
 - **Takeaway #10: Love always sets us free**
 - Loose him & let him go
 - John 8:36 – “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”
 - Bound in addiction & sin
 - Bound in past mistakes & regrets
 - Bound in fear and uncertainty
 - Bound in arrogance & pride
 - Bound in sorrow or depression
 - Bound in selfishness

- **10 takeaways from the resurrection of Lazarus**
 - #1: Love asks with confidence & assurance

- #2: Love keeps the bigger picture in mind
- #3: Love is not always easy to understand right now
- #4: Love is not afraid to take risks
- #5: Love begets sacrifice
- #6: Love still trusts & believes – even in pain
- #7: Love asks for radical faith & commitment
- #8: Love expresses faith, even before the miracle occurs
- #9: Love's word contains creative power & energy
- #10: Love always sets us free