



## John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 11:37-44

From Sermon 6.9.24

Read John 11:37-44

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With the stage set and the players in place, the Bethany drama is ready for the miracle. Jesus confronts the crowd's unbelief and hesitation by praying to the Father out loud, reminding of promises made, including the doubters in the miracle, and raising Lazarus from the dead. The Scripture only gives so many details; it sometimes leaves us with questions. But what's given is sufficient for our own faith, hope, and worship to the same Jesus who raised/raises us.

1. Martha represents the crowd that day and all of us in life's hurtful and impossible situations. What were the stumbling blocks for her, the family, and community? Various answers. How much time had passed. Jesus missed His opportunity to heal. Biology and nature have claimed Lazarus. The only resurrections will be in the last day. The full power of Jesus.

1a. What would you list as some stumbling blocks in your faith and prayer life? Various Personal Answers.

2. What method did Jesus use to raise Lazarus? His Word. What other supernatural events were accomplished just by the power of the Word of God?

- Genesis 1:3 = All of Creation
- Matthew 8:26-27 = Jesus calms the storm
- John 18:4-6 = The crowd arresting Jesus falls down
- Revelation 19:11-16 & 21 = The unbelieving world is cut down in judgment

3. The Lazarus miracle includes the interesting use of others to carry out the will of God. It leads us to the profound question: Why were left here after conversion? To be His hands, feed, mouth, and representatives in the dark, dying world. For ministry and mission. Prayer/care/share.

3a. Jesus has left us here for now, empowered us for service, and commissioned us to care and share. Is this a minor expectation—mostly for those with special gifts and initiative? Or is this a universal expectation upon all those elected and called in Christ which carries great accountability? The second answer for sure. We are now His slaves. We will be judged, not on our sin, but on our faithfulness to use the gifts, opportunities, and life He's given us. Discuss the parable of talents.

4. Lazarus' resurrection is also a useful word-picture of our own salvation [T.u.l.i.p.]. Discuss and review using the following included passages:

- Lazarus was dead, dead, dead. He could do nothing to change his situation. He could hear nothing and was fully incapable of responding to anything. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. We were also spiritually dead. Jesus had to do all the work in restoring us (regeneration) and gifting us life and faith.
- Out of all the people buried in the Bethany cemetery, Jesus only raised Lazarus. Read Romans 9:13-16 & 18. Out of all the people in history, we were elected and restored by Christ.
- Having been made alive, Lazarus was called by Jesus into a new life. Read Romans 8:30 & 1 Peter 2:9. We also have been freed from a life of sin and death and now have a new life for Christ.