

John 11 is our text for today's lesson and, once again, it comes at a critical point in Jesus' life. What have the miracles been all about? **Attesting**—proving by showing—who Jesus was, where he had come from, and why people ought to listen to him (**Acts 2:22**). Near the end of **John 10**, Jesus proclaimed, "**I and the Father are one**" (**10:30**) and, once again, some

of the Jews picked up stones to kill him. Notice carefully what Jesus said in response:

"I have shown you many good works from the Father..." (**10:32**)

"If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (**10:37-38**)

The next "good work" Jesus shows is one of the greatest good works of all.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (**11:1**)

The sisters send to Jesus, letting him know that their brother is ill.

But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (**11:4**)

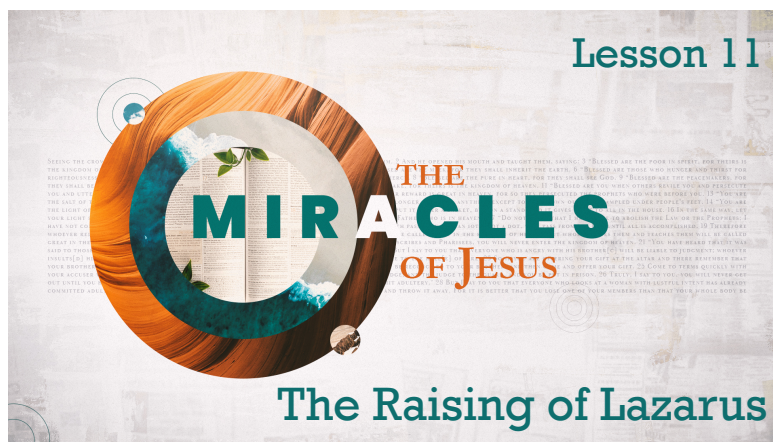
In the next verse, John wants to make sure we understand, Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. But something bigger and greater is about to happen. Jesus even stays away for two more days. He knows, from a distance, that Lazarus has died...

"...and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe." (**11:14-15**)

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. Some of the most emotional moments in all of the Gospels are documented as Martha (**11:20-27**) and Mary (**11:28-37**) come face to face with Jesus in their grief and confusion.

When Jesus came to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone laying against it, he said, "**Take away the stone**" (**11:39**). Martha protests, but Jesus asks, "**Did I not tell you that if you believe you would see the glory of God?**" (**11:40**). Even as Jesus prays to the Father, we're given a clear sense of what this miracle is all about. "**I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me**" (**11:42**). And when Jesus calls, Lazarus, who had been in the tomb four days, came out (**11:43-44**).

What does this great work show us about Jesus' authority and heart? **Let's talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what did Jesus mean in **John 10:30** when he said, “I and the Father are one”?
- Listen carefully to Jesus’ argument in **John 10:37**. What is he saying? What does it teach us about his miracles and the overall point behind them?
- How would you rephrase what Jesus said in **11:4**? What did he know would eventually happen as a result of this miracle?
- What can we learn from Jesus’ interaction with Martha (**11:20-27**)?
- What can we learn from Jesus’ interaction with Mary (**11:28-37**)?
- What impact does this incredible work of God have on the chief priests and Pharisees in **11:45-53**? What can we learn from their reaction?
- What does this miracle teach us about Jesus’ power and authority?
- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus’ heart?
- Is there any connection between this miracle that was performed 2,000 years ago and our own lives today? If so, what is that connection? **1 Corinthians 15** might be helpful here...