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The Weeping Healer

John 11:1-44

¹At this time a man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(Mary, whose brother Lazarus was sick, would later anoint the Lord with perfume and wipe His feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick." ⁴When Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So on hearing that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two days, ⁷and then He said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸"Rabbi," they replied, "the Jews just tried to stone You, and You are going back there?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? If anyone walks in the daytime, he will not stumble, because he sees by the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks at night, he will stumble, because he has no light." ¹¹After He had said this, He told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up." ¹²His disciples replied, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will get better." ¹³They thought that Jesus was talking about actual sleep, but He was speaking about the death of Lazarus. ¹⁴So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Then Thomas called Didymus said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus that Lazarus, their brother, was sick. V.3
- B. Jesus prophesied that this sickness would not end in death but that He would be glorified through it. V. 4-7
- C. The disciples tried to talk Him out of it. V.8
- D. Jesus referred to Lazarus's death as being asleep, and the disciples misunderstood this. V.11-15
- E. Thomas conceded that they will all probably die in Bethany. V.16

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already spent four days in the tomb. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, a little less than two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him; but Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give You whatever You ask Him." ²³"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. ²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies. ²⁶And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷"Yes, Lord," she answered, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." ²⁸After Martha had said this, she went back and called her sister

Mary aside to tell her, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." ²⁹And when Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. ³¹When the Jews who were in the house consoling Mary saw how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³²When Mary came to Jesus and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

II. Here are the details from this passage.

- A. When Jesus arrives Lazarus has been dead for **4 days**. It takes at least 3 full 24 hour periods before a person is considered dead in Judaism. People have been known to resuscitate before this. This was before stethoscopes. V.17-19
- B. **Martha** shows her faith in Jesus Christ. V.20-24
- C. Jesus gives the **Gospel** message in a nutshell. V.25-27
- D. **Mary** expressed her faith in Jesus. V.32-33

³⁴"Where have you laid him?" He asked. "Come and see, Lord," they answered. ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷But some of them asked, "Could not this man who opened the eyes of the blind also have kept Lazarus from dying?" ³⁸Jesus, once again deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹"Take away the stone," Jesus said. "Lord, by now he stinks," said Martha, the sister of the dead man. "It has already been four days." ⁴⁰Jesus replied, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted His eyes upward and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴²I knew that You always hear Me, but I say this for the benefit of the people standing here, so they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³After Jesus had said this, He called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The man who had been dead came out with his hands and feet bound in strips of linen, and his face wrapped in a head-cloth. "Unwrap him and let him go," Jesus told them.

III. Here are the details from this text.

- A. Jesus expresses **emotion** at the death of Lazarus.
- B. This event happened to show the disciples who **Jesus was**. V.41-42
- C. Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, **alive** and well! V. 43-44

IV. What are some applications of this true story?

- A. God's **timing** is not always our **timing**. There is a God and He is not me!
- B. We must ask the question of what does **God** get out of this? His glory has got to be the main motivator of all that we do.
- C. The Gospel has got to be our number one **message**. Do you know what the Gospel is?
- D. We serve an emotional God who has deep **compassion** for all.
- E. Scripture tells us who Jesus is but does our life give **testimony** to this?
- F. Jesus is the **master** over death.