

# Lesson No 89

## THE LIFE OF OUR LORD, PART 18

### LIFE MESSAGE

One of the reasons we can believe in Jesus is because of His great miracles. Only the true Son of God could raise a man from the dead.

### BIBLE STORY

The Raising of Lazarus — John 11:1-46

#### Main Points:

1. Lazarus of Bethany, the brother of Mary and Martha, was sick.
2. Lazarus' sister, Mary, was the one who anointed the Lord Jesus feet with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair.
3. Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick.
4. When Jesus heard about Lazarus, he said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."\*
5. Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, but stayed two more days in the place where He was.
6. Then Jesus told His disciples it was time to go to Judea again.
7. The disciples were concerned because the Jews there wanted to stone Jesus.\*
8. Jesus then explained to the disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep."
9. The disciples thought Lazarus was simply asleep, then everything was alright.
10. The disciples did not understand, however, that Jesus meant Lazarus was dead, so Jesus said plainly, "Lazarus is dead."
11. Jesus then said, "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."\*
12. Thomas, who was also called Didymus spoke up and said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."\*
13. When Jesus made the fifteenth furlongs (about two miles) journey to Bethany, Lazarus had already been in the grave four days.\*
14. Many of the Jews had come to comfort Mary and Martha during the death of their brother.
15. When Martha heard Jesus was coming, she went to meet him but Mary stayed at the house.
16. Martha told Jesus that if He had been present, Lazarus would not have died, but she knew God would give Jesus anything he asked.
17. Jesus then told Martha, "Thy brother shall rise again."
18. Martha told Jesus she understood that Lazarus would rise again at the resurrection at the last day.\*
19. Then Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?"\*
20. Martha said she believed this and then confessed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.
21. Martha then left Jesus and went to tell Mary that Jesus had come.
22. Mary left the house to go to Jesus, who was still at the place Martha had met Him.
23. The mourners with Mary thought she was going to Lazarus' grave, so they followed her to meet Jesus.
24. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and told Jesus Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had been present.
25. When Jesus saw Mary weeping and all the mourners crying also, He was deeply moved.
26. Jesus asked where Lazarus had been lain and the people told Him to come and see.
27. Then Jesus wept and the Jews commented on how much Jesus loved Lazarus.
28. Some of the mourners wondered since Jesus could open the eyes of the blind, surely He could have kept Lazarus from dying.
29. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, which was a cave with a stone against it, He again groaned in Himself.
30. Jesus then ordered the stone to be removed.
31. Martha objected, for by now the body would be stinking.
32. Jesus said to her, "Said I not unto thee that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?"\*
33. When the stone was removed, Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."
34. Then Jesus cried in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."
35. Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with the graveclothes.
36. Jesus said to the people standing there, "Loose him, and let him go."\*
37. Many of the Jews present believed in Jesus, but some of them went to the Pharisees and reported on what Jesus had done.\*

Special Notes\*

- 4. This is the reason for all of Jesus' miracles: that God would receive honor and people would believe Jesus was God's Son.
- 7. See John 8:59 and John 10:31.
- 11. Again Jesus tells the reason for this miracle.
- 12. This statement, coupled with John 20:24-29 is the reason Thomas is often called "Doubting Thomas."
- 13. Many Bible students believe Jesus waited four days before going to Bethany because of an old Jewish belief that a person's spirit lingers around the body for three days after death. After three days the spirit departs and all hope is gone. By waiting four days, Jesus performed a miracle that could not be explained away for any reason.
- 18. Even though Mary believed Jesus could raise her brother from the dead, she obviously did not understand that He intended to do so. It has been said, she was right in her facts, but wrong in her conclusion.
- 19. This is one of the most important statements Jesus ever made. In it He gives the sinner the Gospel and the saved person hope.
- 27. John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible. We have recorded three times in the Bible when Jesus cried. First, here at the grave of Lazarus where His tears were tears of empathy. Second, He wept over the city of Jerusalem and the people who would not accept Him (Luke 19:4). And third, Jesus wept in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matt. 26: 47-56; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11).
- 32. For the third time in this chapter, Jesus tells us why He is doing this miracle.
- 34. This miracle is considered to be the greatest miracle of all for Jesus proves He is God's Son and has the power to defeat death, the last enemy. There are two other times when Jesus raised someone who had died: the widow's son (Luke 7:11-17) and Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43 and Luke 8:41-56). The Gospel of John is the only one to record the resurrection of Lazarus.
- 37. It was right after this miracle that the Jewish religious leaders decided that Jesus must be put to death (John 11:46-57).

## BIBLE VERSE

**Acts 10:38** — "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing ... for God was with him."

## MEMORY WORD

**Graveclothes** — The wrapping of cloth used in ancient days to prepare a body for burial. Lazarus was still wrapped in his graveclothes when Jesus raised him from the dead.

## OBJECT LESSON #1

**Freed From Death And Bondage** — OBJECTS: One roll of toilet paper, index cards, magic marker and tape.

On the index cards, write sins that the children can identify with (lying, cheating, fighting, etc.). Have one child come to the front to be "Lazarus." Select some other students to wrap him up with the toilet paper as shown below.

Tape each one of the index cards on "Lazarus" as shown below. Talk about each one of the sins as you tape it on. When all the cards are taped on "Lazarus," explain that Jesus has the power to overcome death and sin; He can free us from bondage of both.

Let the child break loose and close the lesson by going over the plan of salvation, showing how Christ makes us free from our sin and bad habits.



## OBJECT LESSON #2

**God's Power** — OBJECTS: A policeman's badge or simply write the words "Policeman's Badge" on the board. Show the badge and take a few minutes to tell about the duties and responsibilities of a policeman.

Point out that a policeman's badge is his sign of authority. When we see a badge, we know that a policeman has the authority to do his job.

Explain also that Jesus has authority, much more authority and power than a policeman. Jesus also had a sign of His authority which was his miracles.

We know Jesus was God's Son because of His miracles.

Close the lesson by talking about some of the other miracles we've studied in the past weeks.

## ACTIVITY #1

**What's The Message?** — Divide the children into two or more groups, depending on the size of the class, and have them line up at one end of the room.

Put a chair at the other end of the room and have a child from each line sit in it.

The first child in each line **walks** quickly to the chair and delivers the message "Lazarus is sick. Come quick!" and then returns to the line and touches the second child. The second child takes the message, and so on until all the children have a chance. The first line to finish taking their message is the winner.

You might want to play this more than once using different messages such as, "Lazarus is dead," or "Lazarus has come back to life." Be sure however, to review the lesson as you play to reinforce the Bible story.

## ACTIVITY #2

**Match Up** — Before class, write the two columns of words and explanations on the board as shown below. Have volunteers come to the board and draw a line to match up the word and explanations. (If you have a large group, you might want to let them come to the board in pairs so everyone gets a chance.) Be sure to talk about each "match-up" and review the lesson as you go.

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|-----------------|--|
| A. Jesus        | Covered the grave (J)                            |
| B. Lazarus      | Met Jesus first (D)                              |
| C. Mary         | Believed on Jesus when they saw the miracles (F) |
| D. Martha       | God's Son (A)                                    |
| E. Thomas       | Martha's sister (C)                              |
| F. Mourners     | Wrapped around Lazarus (K)                       |
| G. Disciples    | Didymus (E)                                      |
| H. Pharisees    | Lazarus' town (I)                                |
| I. Bethany      | Raised from the dead (B)                         |
| J. Stone        | Were told of Jesus' miracles (H)                 |
| K. Graveclothes | Warned Jesus not to go to Bethany (G)            |

## REVIEW

1. What was the Bible Verse for last week?
2. What was last Sunday's Memory Word? What does it mean?
3. In your own words tell the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

