

LESSONS FROM LAZARUS

John 11:1-57

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The life of Jesus is filled with many lessons to learn and acts to follow. What happened to Lazarus has several lessons for believers today. Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary were close friends of Jesus who with His disciples often stayed in their home. Lazarus became very sick and his sisters sent word to Jesus to come see what He could do to help. From there on many marvelous lessons are to be noted.

I. EVERYONE GETS SICK

1. *John 11:1-4*
2. Sickness is not a sign that God is mad or displeased at someone necessarily.
 - God does allow sickness at times to turn one's attention back to God, sending the sick one to prayer and God's Word.
3. Sickness is a reminder that life is but a vapor, here and then gone.
 - It causes one to take a good look at what might happen, such as death.
 - Sickness is the result of sin.
 - Sickness comes before death.
 - Sickness, health, life and death are in the hands of the Lord.
 - Sickness, however is not permanent death for the believer.
 - Sickness can be for the glory of God.

II. GENUINE FAITH ALWAYS SUBMITS TO THE WILL OF GOD

1. *John 11:3*
2. The sisters believed that Jesus could help their brother, they had faith in Jesus.
3. Faith submits to the will of God.
 - Perfect faith will not be found in people.
 - It is one thing to talk about faith when one is healthy and strong, etc., but another thing entirely when one is sick, weak, etc.
 - Even the strongest faith is very fragile and can break at any time during difficulties.

III. THE LORD JESUS LOVES ALL BELIEVERS THE SAME

1. *John 11:5*
2. Martha, Mary and Lazarus were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, yet they were not alike.
 - Martha, you remember, was bossy, Mary was more spiritual, wanting to be around Jesus but a bit negligent of some responsibilities and Lazarus was quiet and not prone to draw attention to himself.
 - Jesus loved them all alike and for the same reason, to the same degree.
3. Most people undervalue others if they are different.
 - There are many different kinds of flowers in a flower garden, yet they all contribute to the overall beauty of the garden.
 - Parents with more than one child know that each child is different, yet their love for their children is equal. One is not loved more or less than the other.
 - In God's kingdom, every believer is different in some way, but the least, the weakest, the feeblest of the Lord's believers are no less loved than the greatest, strongest and most reliable.

4. **John 11:30-36**

- Showing kindness to others brings blessings to those who show kindness.
 - Mary and Martha's house was filled with friends who came to be with them in their time of sadness.
 - A great secret of being happy is to make others happy.
 - These people shared Mary and Martha's grief and later shared their joy as well.
- Loving others is being touched by that which touches them, moves one by that which moves them, and grieves one by that which grieves them.
 - Jesus knew what He was going to do, yet He wept, He hurt, He was in sorrow because Mary and Martha were crying, hurting and in sorrow.

IV. GOD'S TIME IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT TIME

1. **John 11:6; 11-17**

2. Jesus stayed where He was for two more days after getting word that Lazarus was sick.
 - Lazarus was dead for four days before Jesus got there, although Jesus knew Lazarus was dying, He stayed where He was.
3. God's time is the best time for everything.
 - ***"...In the fulness of time, Jesus came to save man from his sins..."***
 - Everything that happens to the believer in Jesus is done just at the right time, in the right way.
 - However everyone wants things done their way right now!
 - When one is sick, Jesus knows the best time to heal.
 - When one is in trouble, Jesus knows the best time to deliver.
 - When one needs help, Jesus knows the best time and way to help.

V. GOD'S CHILDREN WILL NEVER DIE PERMANENTLY

1. **John 11:11-14; 25-26**

2. Everyone has physical life and the human body will one day die but those who are lost, not believers in Jesus Christ will die twice. One is the human body death and the other is eternal separation from God in hell.
 - Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
 - Believers will be raised from the dead as Jesus was.
 - Believers were raised from the dead by a receiving a spiritual new birth.
 - Believers shall be raised from the dead literally when Jesus comes back.

VI. SALVATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY WHAT JESUS DID AT THE CROSS AND THE TOMB

1. **John 11:39-44**

2. Here is proof that Jesus Christ has absolute power over the flesh and the spiritual world.
 - Lazarus was dead and his body was already rotting but was made instantly alive.
 - Lazarus' soul was called back from heaven to live again in its original fleshly body.
3. Jesus called upon the people at the tomb to remove the stone.
 - No one but Jesus can raise the dead, but there are some things people can do, move the stone.
4. Jesus spoke to Lazarus directly and told him to come out.
 - A personal call
 - A particular call
 - A powerful call
5. Jesus spoke to the people again and told them to remove the grave clothes and set him loose/free.

6. Many who saw and heard what happened believed in Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. Everyone gets sick at one time or other for various reasons.
2. God can be honored anytime anyone gets sick.
3. Sickness can cause one to turn to God in prayer, His Word, and His people.
4. God loves every believer (His Children) the same.
5. God's timing is always right, and His ways are not the ways of anybody else.
6. God's children (believers) will never die permanently.
7. Jesus has control/power over the human body, the world and the spiritual world.
8. Everlasting life (salvation) is the result of what Jesus has done, not what any other person tries or has done.