

# **The Miracle that Moved the People to Murder**

March 13, 2005

## **John 11 & 12**

### **1. Preparation for the Miracle: *John 11:37-57***

- At the grave Jesus first told them to take away the stone – Martha protested reminding Jesus how long Lazarus had been dead – 4 days – corruption had set in. (He rose in 3 days because his body was to see no corruption)
- If we are to see the glory of God in our circumstances, we must submit to doing it God's way
- Jesus had to remind her that there must be an exercise of faith to see the glory of God
- Stay in Faith! – a sincere faith shall at length be rewarded with a blessed vision
- Take Christ's words, and rely on his power and faithfulness, and we shall see the glory of God

### **2. How the Miracle Happened – *John 11:41:***

- Jesus had them to remove the stone – He was not trying to perform a magic show by moving the stone himself, even though he could have.
- Also there are some things we must do to prepare ourselves for the glory of God to be manifested in our lives. God is not going to move everything for us.
- Then He prays – lifted his eyes toward heaven - some had said he worked his miracles in conjunction with the devil – Prayer is the ascent of the soul to God.
- In his prayer, he calls God Father, and then praised and thanked Him for former favors/blessings
- His prayer demonstrates the unshakable assurance Christ has that the miracle would be done.
- He is triumphant (thankful) even before the victory – God answers us with mercies even before we call, so we ought to answer him with praise even before he grants our requests.
- This miracle will be an answer to prayer - he had prayed somewhere, sometime before arriving at the grave.
- If the Father hears Jesus always, we can rely on his intercessions for us – put all our petitions in his hands

### **3. The Miracle:**

- Jesus calls Lazarus to come forth
- Lazarus' soul which was now in Hades was called to reunite with his body in the grave
- Whatever amount of corruption that his body had seen was reversed
- Lazarus not only returned to life, but to health – he died due to illness
- Lazarus came out the same way they put him in - bound hand and foot and a napkin about his face – there was no issue of it not being the same Lazarus they buried.
- Jesus had raised others – a dead young man on the way to be buried, a young woman **dead at home**

### **4. The Murderous Plot – *John 11:46-57:***

- After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many of the Jews believed on Him
- The Chief Priest and the Pharisees held a council to decide what to do about Jesus

- Their problem: Too many Jews are believing on Jesus because he is doing too many miracles. This could lead to the setting up of a new King and the Romans will not stand for that
- But they lost their integrity, for Jesus' teachings were not a threat to the Roman Empire – he taught render unto Caesar that which belongs to Caesar. Pilot could find no fault in him
- The high priest decides it is better that one man die than the whole nation be destroyed.
- They were too blind to see that they spoke the will of God – Put to death this man turning our world upside down!