

John 11:28-46

Verses 28-32 Martha will then return to her sister Mary and tell her that Jesus is calling for her. Mary will leave the house and went to find Jesus who in the place where He had just had His conversation with Martha. Those who were at the house consoling Mary saw how quickly she left and followed her, thinking she was going to weep at the tomb. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and had the same response that her sister Martha had. She showed belief in the power of Jesus to have healed her brother if He had been there.

Verse 33 There was an oral tradition among the Jews at that time that there must be at least two hired flute players and one hired wailer/mourner to weep and mourn for the dead. When Jesus sees Mary weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

Deeply moved in the Greek uses the word *embrimáomai* which means (from [1722](#) /en, "engaged in" and *brimaomai*, "to snort") – properly, snort like an angry horse; (literally) "snort (roar) with rage" (*BAGD*) which expresses *strong indignation*, i.e. deep feeling that is moved to *sternly* admonish.

There are multiple views on why Jesus had this reaction to seeing Mary and the group weeping and becoming irate and angry. One view is that He was angry with the lack of faith of Mary and Martha. Another view is he saw the professional mourners who did not really care hypocritically weeping for these whom He loved. Another view which I believe is more likely is that He saw the destructive effects, the heartache, and the pain associated with the greatest enemy of humanity which is death. Sin brought death into this world and death will be the last enemy that He will defeat ([1 Corinthians 15:26](#)). It would very soon that Jesus would come face to face with this enemy as His hour is nearing and He will conquer this enemy on the cross. He would face death as He willingly laid His life down for His sheep.

Verses 34-36 After Jesus asks where Lazarus' tomb is, Jesus wept. This is the short verse in the Bible but does not lack in meaning and depth. What is in view is what the apostle Paul teaches in [Romans 12:15](#). This speaks to His human nature.

- [Romans 12:15](#) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Verse 37 Some present began to scoff and doubt Jesus and His power. They refer back to His healing of the blind man that is found in John 9 and ask "could not this man who opened the eyes of the man blind, have kept this man from dying?" The answer is yes, but that was not the sovereign plan of God. Lazarus was to die for the purpose God being glorified and His disciples' faith being strengthened. God is omnipotent with all power to do as He pleases ([Psalm 115:3](#)). What pleased the Lord was for Lazarus to die so He could raise Him from the dead.

Verse 38 Jesus again is deeply moved within and comes to the tomb of Lazarus which was a cave covered by a stone. This miracle of resurrecting Lazarus from the dead is a foreshadowing of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus also was laid in a tomb with a stone rolled against it.

Verses 39-40 Jesus gives the command to remove the stone from the tomb. Martha knows that her brother is truly dead and the decomposition should have begun, tells Jesus that if He removes the stone there will be stench. Jesus reminds of her of what He had told her early that "if she believed, she would see the glory of God."

Verses 41- 42 They then removed the stone as Jesus had commanded. After the stone was removed, Jesus prays out loud to the Father. Jesus is thanking His Father for always hearing His prayer. He then states the reason He is praying this

prayer to the Father for them to hear is for those that had gathered so that they would believe that Jesus as sent from the Father. His works are a witness that He is sent from the Father (**John 5:36**)

Verses 43-44 Jesus calls with a loud voice for Lazarus to come forth and Lazarus comes forth.

There are several things to know about this call and miracle.

- This call is to a dead man.
- This call is personal as He calls Lazarus by name.
- This call is effectual as it brings about the desired effect.
- This call brings a dead man to life
- This call sets a dead man free as he was bound.

Jesus is the resurrection and life and He has shown His power over death as He has resurrected Lazarus from the dead and brought Him to life.

Verses 45-46 Some of the people that had witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead believed in Jesus. While others went to the Pharisees to tell them the things that Jesus had done. The news of what Jesus had done brings their hatred and hostility to a boiling point as they will now begin conspiring to kill Jesus.

The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead is one that should leave us in absolute awe of our God who has the power of life and the power over death. Christ would shortly after this story face the enemy of death when He would lay His life down for the sheep and suffer the wrath of His Father. He would then be placed in a tomb. The resurrection of Lazarus was amazing but would pale in comparison to the resurrection that is coming shortly when the Son of Man would be resurrected from the dead. The same one who raised Lazarus from the dead is the same One who raised Himself from the dead as He is the resurrection and the life! If we are a Christian and we look close at this story, we will find the story of our salvation. We were dead in our sins (**Ephesians 2:1**) and were unable to bring ourselves to life. What can a dead man do? Dead men don't reach, seek, or grasp for God. What can a dead man do? Be dead. Lazarus was unable to bring himself to life but was dependent of Christ coming to him. If Christ had never come to Him, he would have remained dead. The same is true for all those who believe as we all would be dead in our sins if Christ had never come seeking and finding us. One day while we were dead in sins an effectual call came to us. This call was a personal call. He called us by name as He calls His sheep by name (**John 10:3**). He calls the names of all that have been written in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world (**Rev 13:8, 17:8**). His call is effectual as it brings forth the desired effect for which it was intended. When Jesus called Lazarus' name and commanded him to come forth, he came. The same is true for us who were dead in sin when He called us personally and effectually from death to life and from darkness to light, we came! The Shepherd called our name and we followed. Lazarus was bound in grave linens when he came out of the grave but was set free. We are enslaved and held captive to sin and the enemy, until He brings us to life and sets us free. We were dead in sins until one day God came to the tomb of our souls that were spiritually dead. He called us by name effectually and personally and we were brought from spiritual death to spiritual life. All those who have been raised to spiritual life will one day be raised with Him in the resurrection on the last day. This is only possible through Christ. He is the resurrection and life!