



**JESUS SETS FREE FROM DEATH & DECAY**

**John 11: 1-46**

This miracle is unique in every way as the crowning proof of Christ's mission on earth - to destroy death - the major work of the devil - **1Jn.3: 8.**

It is also a prelude or rehearsal of the resurrection of Christ from the dead also.

Jesus was a friend of Lazarus' family. We must befriend Christ if He must free us from death also.

This is a unique family that enjoyed intimate fellowship and favour with the Lord. Many who want the Lord's favour today don't want His fellowship.

Again, this unique family points out to us that many of the things we emphasize so much today don't really matter - no mention of husband or wife and no children. Just pure fellowship with Jesus!

The sisters of Lazarus sent for Jesus when their brother was sick. Who do you run to when sick or in trouble?

Lazarus himself was so sick and dying to seek for help but his sisters did on his behalf. There are times when we are distressed to seek help ourselves. That is why we need the fellowship of others. Don't isolate yourself - **Eccles.4: 9-10.**

Their love was pure, genuine and sincere - **Prov.18: 24; Rom.12: 9.**

We need such love in the church.

Lazarus' sister's took his matter to Jesus. Always pray for those you love even if you can't do anything else for them.

They sent for Jesus. Although, the Lord knows our needs yet, He wants to hear them from us in prayer - we only receive when we ask, we find when we seek and get open doors when we knock well and long enough - **Matt.7: 7-8**.

Their message or prayer to Jesus was simple and short. Effective prayer does not mean long prayer. We must avoid vain repetition when we pray - **Matt.6: 7**.

Their prayer emphasized relationship from God's perspective - not theirs or their brother's perspective - "...he whom Thou lovest is sick" (**Jn.11: 3**).

Effective prayer emphasizes relationship from God's perspective and not ours - many claim to know the Lord but the Lord does not know them - **Matt.7: 21-23**.

God loves some people specially more than others e.g. Enoch, Abraham, David, John Baptist, Lazarus, Peter, James and John. Jesus wept because of Lazarus! - **Jn.11: 35**.

Friends of God can be sick and even die. Closeness to God does not immune us from problems of life but the reverse is the case - **Ps.34: 19; Jn.16: 33; 2Tim.3: 12**.

Jesus said, "...this Sickness is not unto death" (**Jn.11: 4**) and still, Lazarus died. There are times when what we see or feel contradict the word of God. Faith is believing God, and not what you see or feel (**Heb.11: 1**).

Again, Jesus was right that the sickness was not unto death because those who truly die are those who die the second death or eternal death (**Rev.21: 8**).

Everything that happens to a child of God is for God to be glorified - even death! - **Jn.9: 3** e.g. Joseph.

Jesus deliberately delayed for Lazarus to die and be buried (he had even started to decay) - to display God's power and glory in setting free from death and decay. Other dead people He raised before now were not yet buried or started to decay.

Sometimes, it may appear as if God delays but He is always on time and never late.

Perhaps the sisters of Lazarus were right in that sense - for Lazarus wouldn't have died and be buried if Jesus had not delayed but also, Lazarus would not have been brought back to life if he had not died.

However, Jesus Christ demonstrated through Lazarus that He has power to set free from death and decay.

The death and decay of Lazarus was also to try or test the faith of his sisters. No doubts, God does certain things to try and test our faith - **2Tim.2: 20; 1Pet.1: 7.**

Eventually, at the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus simply commanded and said - "**Lazarus, come forth!**" And, immediately, Lazarus responded and came forth.

May every form of deadness and decay in your receive God's word of life and command to come forth and respond today in Jesus mighty name.

After Lazarus came back to life, he was still bound with grave cloths which Jesus commanded the people to remove from him.

### **Conclusion:**

Jesus sets free from death and decay but we must remove every grave cloth (obstacle, barrier and limitation) with which we have been bound also.

Come to Jesus and He will set you free from death and decay but your grave cloths must be removed also.

May your grave cloths (anything hindering or inhibiting God's plan and purpose for your life in any way) be removed in Jesus' mighty name! Amen.