

John # 172

“From The Wake To The Awakening Of Lazarus” *John 11 Introduction; Luke 10:38-42*

**IN JOHN 11, WE HAVE FOUR SECTIONS:**

**Verses 1-16 are the background for Jesus’ seventh sign and in verses 17-32, we have two sisters in a serious crisis; then in verses 33-46, we see the seventh sign performed and finally in verses 47-57, we’ll once again and this time to an even greater extent, observe the vicious opposition of self-righteous legalistic religion at its worst.**

The Lord Jesus had left Jerusalem for Perea in John 10:40 because *Israel’s finest* tried to stone Him to death near the temple and now the news of the terminal illness of His personal friend Lazarus will bring Him back across the Jordan and into enemy territory once more.

**The Lord Jesus shows His power over death in resuscitating Lazarus which is a preview of His own death and resurrection in a sense but the difference is that Lazarus will die again and Jesus won’t and not only that, Jesus’ death is actually ‘The death of (spiritual) death’ for all who believe in Him because just as He claimed, He is the Resurrection and the Life!**

When you come right down to it, the glory of God is the reason for everything in the universe.

**This powerful miracle brings glory to God in three ways: 1. It confirms the deity of Christ.**

**2. It strengthens the disciples’ faith.**

**3. It led directly to the cross, the climax of the Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry and life.**

We can fully understand all that God has revealed about Himself but we will never fully understand God; only God can comprehend all there is to know about Him but we will have eternity to grow further in our awareness of His majesty.

**The basic issue of all religions is: What happens to you when you die?**

To my knowledge, only Christianity offers Heaven based on someone else’s work other than the petitioner’s efforts.

*And our Lord and Savior as a fellow human being relates to us with the ultimate in compassion.*

The Lord Jesus is a personal God who cares deeply for us and contrary to popular belief, He is not a statue.

**Newsflash: Men fear death, so for many as they age the quest for materialism is replaced with a desire for security in the after-life.**

Man’s creation of after death security is elusive at best.

*So, now man pretends that death isn’t bad; he covers it with beautiful flowers in serene cemeteries and we sing emotional songs, give eloquent speeches, decorate ornate boxes with corpses with pretty make-up masking their decomposition.*

**And why? No one wants to face what death really is!**