

LESSON 17:
Raising Lazarus


The Life Of Christ –
Perea to Bethany

JOHN 11:1-46
DECEMBER 1, 2021

The Life of Christ

► Perea

- Name does not appear in the Bible
- Comes from the Greek word meaning “beyond”
- Perea is the land “beyond” the Jordan (Mark 3:8)


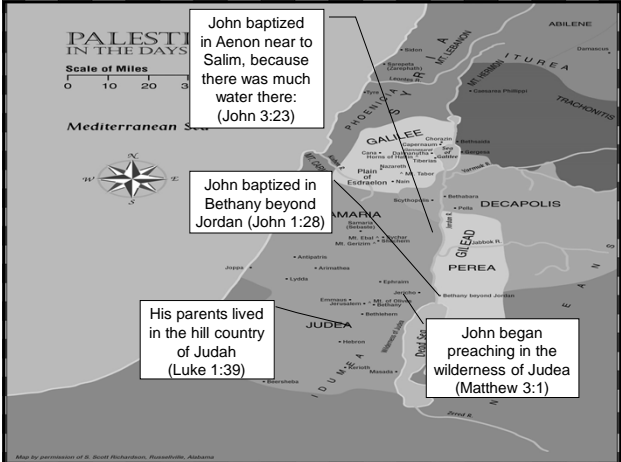


The Life of Christ

► Perea

- Includes the name of the land that once belonged to the tribes of Reuben and Gad
- Called Gilead in the Old Testament
- John did his baptizing there
- Jesus withdrew to Perea a few weeks before his crucifixion (John 10:40-42)

John baptized in Bethany beyond Jordan (John 1:28)

John baptized in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: (John 3:23)

John baptized in Bethany beyond Jordan (John 1:28)

His parents lived in the hill country of Judah (Luke 1:39)

John began preaching in the wilderness of Judea (Matthew 3:1)

Raising Lazarus John 11:1-16

The Setting

- Jesus had claimed in chapter 10 that He and the Father are one. The Jews had accused him of blasphemy and were prepared to stone Him.
- Jesus then left Jerusalem and went beyond Jordan (Perea) where John had been baptizing.
- It was here that Jesus learns that Lazarus is sick.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:1-2, “Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary and her sister Martha. And it was that Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.”

The setting for the events of this chapter.

This was the same Lazarus whose sisters were Mary and Martha.

- a. The names of the three are probably listed, as is most often done, in order of age. Luke 10:38 and verse 19 seem also to confirm this. Lazarus was, therefore, the “little brother” to the two sisters.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

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The setting for the events of this chapter.

This was the "Mary" that had anointed the feet of Jesus.

- This anointing by Mary is described later in John 12:1-8. This event occurred later chronologically.
- Since the gospel of John was written many years after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, he is referring to this anointing to identify which Mary is meant.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

John 11:3, "The sisters therefore sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick."

- ▶ NOTE: Only about three and one-half months remain of the Lord's public ministry. The raising of Lazarus in so public a fashion in a place so close to Jerusalem as Bethany; was bound to raise the indignation of the Jerusalem authorities. (cf. John 11:46, 53).
- ▶ NOTE: In this passage we have two Greek words for love.
 - ▶ In verses 3 and 36 we have *philein*, which expresses natural affection such as a parent feels for a child. In this verse (verse 5) we have *agapan*, an affection resulting from moral choice, loftier and less impulsive.
- ▶ We are told of the Lord's love that we may understand that his delay was not due to indifference.
- ▶ See also verses 5, 11, 15, 35, 36 for indications of Jesus' affection for this family.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

John 11:4-5, "But when Jesus heard it, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus."

These sisters sent an urgent appeal to Jesus, for him to come, but He delayed going to Bethany.

- Jesus knew that Lazarus would die, but he also knew that this would provide a demonstration of the power of God. He would raise Lazarus from the dead. (cf. 9:3)
- NOTE: "This sickness is not unto death" (Verse 4)
The end result is not death.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

- By delaying enough time for the body to begin to decay, the miracle would be convincing.
- This provides evidence for the **purpose of the miracles** Jesus did. (cf. John 20:30-31)
 - To: Glorify God. (cf. 9:3)
 - To: Bear Witness. (Acts 2:22; John 6:36-37)

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

- ▶ NOTE: Jesus performed many miracles: healing the blind, lame man, etc. However, Jesus did not do miracles to be some super-doctor. This miracle shows Jesus had **POWER OVER DEATH!**
 - ▶ He can overcome the power of Satan.
 - ▶ He demonstrates also that He has power over spiritual death.
 - ▶ John 14:12 – Jesus declared that men would do greater works than these.
 - ▶ Are men today raising people from the dead? What greater works than these can men do today? You can teach what to do to have spiritual life!

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick.

John 11:1-16

NOTE: The purpose of the miracles of the Apostles and those upon whom they laid their hands.

- To: Reveal truth. (John 16:13)
- To: Confirm that truth. (Hebrews 2:3-4)
- When Truth was fully revealed and confirmed, miracles ceased! (1 Corinthians 13:9-10)
- Anyone who attempts to confirm a new message is accursed. (cf. Galatians 1:6-9)

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:6-7, "When therefore he heard that he was sick, he abode at that time two days in the place where he was. Then after this he saith to the disciples, Let us go into Judaea again."

- ▶ Jesus had left this region of Judea earlier because the Jews had sought to stone him. (cf. 10:31) His disciples think it strange / dangerous, that He would desire to return.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:8-10, "The disciples say unto him, Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone thee (cf. 10:31); and goest thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If a man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because the light is not in him."

- a. Jesus walked as one in the daylight who could see where He was going, but since the disciples were in darkness (ignorance), they were frightened by His plan to return to Judea where His enemies sought His life.
- b. Jesus knew that the Jews could not take Him until his "hour was come." The disciples were unaware of this.
- c. His hour is not now, and his place of death is not Bethany.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:11-14, "These things spake he: and after this he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus is fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. The disciples therefore said unto him, Lord, if he is fallen asleep, he will recover. Now Jesus had spoken of his death: but they thought that he spake of taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus therefore said unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead."

Jesus affirms that Lazarus is "fallen asleep."

- ▶ "Sleep" is a term often used in the scriptures as a symbol of death. Perhaps this figure is used because the body appears to be in a position of rest and repose. (cf. 2 Chronicles 14:1; Psalms 133:3; Jeremiah 51:57; Job 14:12; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 27:52; Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- ▶ If Lazarus was asleep (thinking of literal sleep), then why would Jesus even go to Lazarus? Jesus had previously spoken of death using the figure of sleep (Luke 8:52)

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:15, "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."

Jesus expresses that He is glad that He was not there when Lazarus died. Why?

- ▶ "I was glad." Jesus did not rejoice over the death of a loved one, but he saw the present moment.
 - ▶ Jesus intended to raise Lazarus from the dead that "ye may believe."
 - ▶ We have opportunity to be comforted for those who "die in the Lord." (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
 - ▶ Death can be a good thing. (Revelation 14:13)
 - ▶ Spiritual death however is much worse than physical death.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:16, "Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said unto his fellow-disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- ▶ These names express the same thing. One is Hebrew and the other Greek. The name means a twin.
- ▶ Die with Lazarus or die with Jesus?
- ▶ Thomas shows in this statement a personal willingness to go into Judea with Christ although he seems sure that this reckless action will result in his death, and perhaps the deaths of the others.

Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead. John 11:17-44

John 11:17, "So when Jesus came, he found that he had been in the tomb four days already."

The distance from Perea to Bethany was about twenty-five miles. Approximately two days of foot travel were involved in getting from one place to the other.

- ▶ It is indicated that Lazarus died the day that Jesus was sent for.
 - ▶ One day in travel for Jesus.
 - ▶ Jesus tarried where he was for two days after he learned about Lazarus. (verse 6)
 - ▶ One day for Jesus to travel to Bethany.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:18-19, "Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother."

NOTE: Bethany was just under two miles from Jerusalem.

- ▶ That explains the large number of mourners from the city and the speed with which the news of his resurrection reached the authorities in the capitol.

Jesus Is Called To Bethany Because Lazarus Is Sick. John 11:1-16

John 11:20-22, "Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary still sat in the house. Martha therefore said unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. And even now I know that, whatsoever thou shalt ask of God, God will give thee."

- ▶ Martha, as the oldest of the two sisters (Luke 10:38, 40), is first to carry out the duties of hospitality.
- ▶ Martha was not being critical of Jesus, but expressing her faith that Jesus could have, He had the power to prevent Lazarus' death.
- ▶ Mary apparently had not been informed of the Lord's arrival (verses 28-29), so she remained in the house.

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Note: Mary said the same words to Him a little later (John 11:32).

- ▶ BOTH indicate a confession of faith.
- ▶ BOTH indicate a lack of knowledge of the omnipotence of Jesus. They thought Jesus could cure at hand, but not at a distance; or they thought that it was because He did not know of their brother's indisposition that He permitted him to die.
- ▶ He is seen by these sisters as a holy man making a request of God.