



**Wanted:  
Dead and Alive!  
John 11:38-44**

# **“The Dead Man Came Out!” John 11:44 (N.I.V.)**

- **Has a stranger phrase ever been written?**
- **Lazarus, who had been dead for four days (decaying) comes out of his tomb (not natural; Note: Jesus had delayed going to Lazarus even after learning of his serious illness, John 11:6)**
- **But it makes sense if we believe in the individual who shouted the words, “Lazarus come out!” GOD! (John 1:1)**
- **I’ve read that the Greek word used here for “shout” or “cried out,” occurs only eight times in the entire Greek Bible, six times in John’s gospel (this is the first time)**
- **Remember, Jesus had just prayed aloud to His Father before shouted “Lazarus” to authenticate his ministry; John 11:42**
- **How could the Hadean world hold Lazarus in it, if its creator had asked for him back (God spoke the world into existence)**

# Where Was Lazarus Anyway?

- I suggest to you that Lazarus was in, “the waiting room” of the dead best understood in biblical terms as Hades or Sheol (the Hebrew word)
- Notice that Jesus does not descend into Hades here (as He did in 1 Peter 3:18-20), but by His voice summons Lazarus to come back to his previous body
- This is a different place from the biblical “hell,” the eternal consequence of condemnation from God at the last judgement; Matthew 10:28
- Jesus describes the Hadean world in Luke 16 as a place with two halves and an unabridged gulf or chasm which separates the two: the wicked from the righteous
- In the world of Hades, punishment has already begun, Luke 16:24 before the final judgement (The rich man cries out).

# Observations

- So, I suggest to you that Lazarus was indeed dead in Hades, in his pre-resurrection form waiting for the second coming
- The only thing that could change his circumstance, was a “private wake-up call,” from Jesus Himself
- Lazarus, when you think about it, was experiencing “life, after life, after death!”
- One day, we will experience the same thing:

***“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”***

***1 Thessalonians 4:16-17***



**“The Dead Man Came  
Out!”  
John 11:44**

**There Were Three  
Responses to What the  
Witnesses Saw!**



# #1 Response of a Belief in Jesus

*“Therefore, many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him.”*

*John 11:45*

- Many of their lives were converted to a “Life of Faith,” in Jesus, by witnessing what had happened
- Remember that God’s idea of belief/faith is not just wearing the title, or name, “Christian”
- The word “Faith,” in practical terms is a verb, not a noun indicating, (action) James 2:17-18; *“show me”*

# Hebrews 11:6

***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”***

- This means those who were converted began to trust and obey Jesus—like we should
- “Though He slay me yet will I trust Him...” Job 13:15
  - “I don’t understand this pandemic, but I will trust in you!”
  - “I may have lost friends and family but I will trust in you!”
  - “God, You have caused me to think seriously and soberly about my life, and I trust in you, and will be obedient to your word.”

## #2 The Response of the “Hard Heart of Self Preservation”

- It is said: “the same sun that melts butter hardens clay!”
- It’s strange but the Pharisees (religious leaders) were afraid of their loss of religious influence in a Jewish system that depended on their religion under the Roman Empire
- Remember of the two major religious groups, the Pharisees *believed* in the resurrection of the dead (one of their major platforms), and the Sadducees did not
- The Pharisees talked about it, wrote about it, argued about it, but refused to face the reality of it (Jesus was it)
- They could have changed their hearts like the Pharisee, Nicodemus did; John 3:1-2

## John 11:46-53

***“But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.”***

***“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”***

***.... So from that day on they plotted to take His life.”***

# Observations

- Here are religious leaders who are more concerned about losing their influence and their *“Elevated Place in Society” (their reputation)*, rather than the truth.
- Could there be religious leaders today more concerned about their platform (their numbers of constituents) rather than truth?
- Many religious leaders have died serving themselves

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned and avoid them. For they that are such serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”*

***Romans 16:17-18***

# **“Good Words and Fair Speeches” (Smooth Talk and Flattery)**

- ***“You don’t have to be baptized.” “Just profess your faith”  
Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, Galatians 3:26-27***
- ***“I’m all of the head the church needs. No needs for Pastors  
and Elders, or Bishops” Acts 20:28***
- ***“Your gender doesn’t matter in leading the church”  
1 Timothy 3:1***
- ***“The type of music you worship with doesn’t matter”  
Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Matthew 15:7-8***
- ***“You don’t need a mask to wear or continue to sanitize”  
2 Peter 1:3, (Tempting God is very dangerous-Matthew 4:5-7)***

## #3 Response of Tremendous Self Sacrifice

- In the next chapter, John tells the story of a dinner held at Lazarus' sister's house in honor of Jesus (Martha prepared the food; imagine how grandiose it was)
- John notes that Lazarus, who had been dead in the last chapter, was there, reclining at the dinner table
- How do you think that his sisters felt about Jesus, who had brought their beloved brother back from the grave?
- Remember, in John 11:35, Jesus wept because of the tremendous agony that the sisters felt; Romans 5:12
- So this dinner was Martha's way of saying "thank you" to Jesus for bringing her brother back by honoring Jesus with the best she had. Jesus was reminded of God's gift (His best)

# What Does Mary Do?

- **Mary leaves the dinner table and comes back with a pound of expensive perfumed ointment, that monetarily was equal to a year's wages, and rubs it on Jesus' feet and uses her hair to make sure it is evenly spread.**
- **Judas at the dinner, called her display wasteful, an example of poor stewardship (how could you let her do this?). That ointment could have been turned into money that could have helped the poor!**
- **Did you know that the "Judas personality" is a participant in a lot of religious gatherings today? Questioning motives, telling others how their talents and gifts could be better served**
- **Judas was not into social justice or urban ministry, but he was the group treasurer and stole from them; John 12:6**

# Wanted Dead and Alive!

## Colossians 3:1-3

***“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”***

- Have you died yet? (selfishness, immorality, lust, greed)
- Are you living life after death right now?
- Today, some wish they had died to self before they died
- But they have no more time
- What about you today? Is your time a given?

# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**