

Session Sixteen: Lessons from the Raising of Lazarus and Series Conclusion

Opening Prayer

Re-cap to the last sign:

- Jesus shows himself to be life itself- indestructible life itself.
- And all those around him, even those who should have known him best, show themselves to be mostly unable to grasp this truth.
- He does the sign anyway because it is his Father's plan to do so. The story is not really about Lazarus at all but about what Jesus demonstrates through him.
- The world must be shown the power and glory of God, and they are free to accept it or reject it.

Some quick lessons from Lazarus:

God's greater designs are done out of love for us: because Jesus loved, he waits.

- It is a deep and mature faith that rests on the providence and plan of God as the explanation to the hardships of life.
- But such faith is a gift, and it comes with the price of suffering, conversion, and as a result of grace.

Untie him- untie us.

- We do find ourselves dead at points in life and we must hear the voice (think John 10) of the Shepherd calling out to us to come out of our sinful behaviors.
- Ultimately we look forward to the day of the resurrection when he will untie us from the bonds of sin and death, and because of this we face the fears of life with faith.

We are wise to pray like Jesus prayed:

- Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me."

Conclusion to the Series: The Seven Signs of the Gospel of John

Who is Jesus?

- We have walked through "the Third Day" and seen the revelation of God as John has painted the picture.
- We have seen Jesus as not merely a worker of wonders who simply responds to our wishes and whims:
- He is God. He is profoundly attentive to our needs, and he lavishes abundant life upon us.
- He does not expect us to earn anything because he knows that we are not capable of doing so.
- He wants us to receive his gifts of love and grace.
- He wants to act upon us in the sacraments and in the Word.
- He wants us to react by placing our trust in his word and by abiding in his friendship.

Presented so that you may believe.

- At the end of John chapter 20, the author explains that Jesus did many other signs that are not written in this book, but these signs are presented so that you / we may come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that through this believe, we may have life in his name.

- This series on John's Gospel is offered with the same hope.
- Please pray for all the ways that my own inadequate explanations failed to do justice to the true and beautiful text of John, and to the glory and power of the God himself.

Credit to resources:

- I owe tremendous credit for the content of this series to a commentary on John's Gospel from the *Sacra Pagina* series, with the volume on John's Gospel written by Francis J Moloney. His work was used heavily as the basis for much of what I had to say about the text of John.
- Also great credit to Pope Benedict XVI and his three volume work: *Jesus of Nazareth*.
- My "thanks" is also in order to Tammy Waech our communications staff member at the parishes who kindly packaged the videos so that they could be organized on the web and shared.
- Know of my "thanks" to all of you who have listened to this series.

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End of Session Sixteen