

SEVEN SIGNS OF JESUS | JOHN 11 – JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

John 20:30-31, “30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

In this text we’ll see three may things: Jesus allows suffering to happen that God’s glory might be revealed; Jesus gives Mary and Martha words to believe before he reveals the glory; Jesus feels our pain and sorrow.

Part 1 – 11:1-16

Jesus performed two other resurrections – Jairus’s daughter and the son of a widow (Mk 5:21–42; Lk 7:11–17).

11:4-6 – Jesus glorification and delay

- Video | The Problem of Suffering and the Goodness of God - Ravi Zacharias at Johns Hopkins | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7-gP1gC8gM>
- Book | Why Suffering?: Finding Meaning and Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense by Ravi Zacharias & Vince Vitale
- Articles | <http://rzim.org/?s=suffering>

11:9-10 – Walk in light, not darkness

- John 9:1-7
- “To digress from God’s purpose is to walk in darkness; to remain in fellowship with God is to walk in light.”

Part II – 11:17-37

Why did Jesus allow this suffering to occur?

- v4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
- v14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.

- A similar situation occurred earlier in John 9:3 concerning the man born blind.
- “Jesus considered this an opportunity for a supreme demonstration of power that would certify the Father’s accreditation of him as the Son and confirm the faith of the sisters and the disciples. He was certain of the outcome.” And he is certain of your outcome.
- Psalm 30:5

11:25-27 - “I am resurrection and life”

- In saying this, Jesus is declaring that he is the physical embodiment of the “vital power to bring the dead to life.”
- Colossians 1:9-23; 1 Cor 15:47-49, 54-57
- V27 – Martha’s response, “I have believed.” The verb that’s translated as “have believed” is in the perfect tense... and implies not only a past decision but also a present state of mind. There could have hardly been a stronger expression of faith on her part.”

Why does Jesus weep? What does this tell us about him?

- 11:33, 35 – “deeply moved”, “Greatly troubled”, “wept”
- Deeply moved – to snort with anger; to sigh with chagrin/sorrow/irritation. Used in Matt 17:23; 26:22; 26:38, Mark 8:12.
- Greatly troubled – could also mean agitated – like what happens to water in rapids or a sea in a storm – could also mean disturbed.
- Overcome by this flood of emotions, it’s clear why Jesus wept.
- Hebrews 4:15

Part III 11:38-44

- The challenge comes not in the miracle itself, but in “removing the uncertainty and hesitancy from Martha’s attitude that the glory of God might be revealed to her and all present.”
- Video | Lazarus I’m Gonna Kill You by Ravi Zacharias
- 2 Peter 3:8-13