

I. Introduction

A. It would be impossible for us to understand all that happened in the life and ministry of the Son of God.

John 21:25

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written.

B. The things Jesus did beyond what is written is seemingly mind-boggling.

C. However, if you were to attempt to sum up all that Jesus said and did, it can be summed up in a phrase: “He did what He did because of His love for the Father.”

John 14:30–31

30 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

John 8:28–29

28 So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

29 “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

John 4:34

34 Jesus *said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

1. Beloved, it is not Jesus' great love for us that caused Him to preach, teach, and die.
- D. It was His great love for the Father.
- E. The result is a demonstration of His great love for us auxiliary to the love of the Father.

F. In our present study, we will see a crux where His love for the Father, love for others, and self-denial come together unlike anything we have seen.

- There appears to be a conflict of love, of sorts: Jesus' love for the Father, Jesus' love for Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.
 - However, if He simply raised Lazarus from the dead with out the proper word from the Father, that would be self-ambitious love meant to glorify Himself and epitomize a lesser degree of love.
 - Yet, since He waited as the Father told Him, He was able to raise Lazarus from the dead in a much great demonstration of the glory of the Son of God.

II. V.4 "But Jesus, after hearing (this) said, "This sickness is not towards death. But rather, on behalf of the glory of God, in order that, the Son of God might be glorified because of this/through this."

- A. Jesus concluded something when He heard that Lazarus was sick.
 1. He concluded that this sickness would not ultimately end in his death.
 - a) That is not to say that he would not die.
 - b) But rather, that Lazarus' death is not the completion of the situation.
 2. How did He know this?

John 8:28

28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

John 12:49

49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to what to say and what to speak*.

3. Jesus only spoke the things that the Father had told Him.
- B. The Father, apparently, told Him that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead as well as the timing of this event.
 - a) But, notice the result of this whole event-to display the Son of God.
 - b) By displaying the Son of God, God the Father is on display.
 - c) This display would continue to demonstrate that all that Jesus said about Himself was true.
 - d) Nicodemus was right: "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as a teacher*; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." John 3:2.

- C. This is not to say that this miracle displayed the glory of God and the others did not.
- D. This is to say that this particular miracle would be useful in the hands of God and man to precipitate the purpose of God.
- E. **Notice:**
1. V.15 "So that you may believe."
 2. V.40 "If you believe you will see the glory of God?"
 3. V.41 "so they may believe that you sent Me."
 4. V.45 "Therefore may of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him."
 5. Vv.12:17-19
- F. **Now notice:**
1. V.46 "But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done."
 2. V.53 "So from that day on they panned together to kill Him."
 3. Vv.12:9-11 "on account of (Lazarus)."
- | |
|--|
| G. The glory of the Son of God was to some to result in belief. |
| H. The glory of the Son of God was to others to result in fueled hatred. |

III. V.5 "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus."

- A. A whole verse dedicated to this fact.
- B. Why?
1. John is making a point.
 2. It is repeated in vv. 3, 36.
- C. There is a heightening of emotion in this narrative because it happened in real life.
- Lazarus is sick ("whom You love" -v 3).
 - Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus (v. 5).
 - The Jews just about stoned Him and is He going back there???! (v. 8).
 - Lazarus is dead (v. 14).
 - Many Jews came to Martha and Mary in order to console them concerning Lazarus (v. 19).
 - Jesus also shows up=confrontation (v.31; cp. V. 30).
 - Jesus observes Martha and Mary crying greatly ("weeping") - (v.33)
- a) He was deeply move in spirit and was troubled (cf. v.38).
- (1) "deeply move" = groan; in some cases, extreme displeasure.
 - (2) "troubled" = greatly stirred; agitated; tumult.
- | |
|---|
| b) The result, then, is: "Jesus wept" -v. 37. |
|---|
- (1) This weeping was a true, human, emotion of grief and sadness on the part of Jesus over:
 - (a) The actual death of Lazarus.
 - (b) The extreme sadness of Martha and Mary.
 - (c) The APPARENT sadness of the Jews accompanying the women.
 - (2) Ultimately, the Jews were right; Jesus wept because of His great love of Lazarus (as well as Martha and Mary).

- c) V.43 = "cried out with a loud voice..."
 - (1) The emotion in this "loud voice" is cumulative.
 - (2) This expression by Christ, it seems, was a true crying out a command to Lazarus.
 - (3) Maybe even a voice that was to reach to "heaven."
- 2. So, you have in this narrative kinds of love that are expressed in a variety of ways.
 - a) Because of the Father's love of Jesus, the Father refused to let Jesus go immediately and heal Lazarus, but rather to let him die (v.4).
 - b) Because of the Son's love of the Father, Jesus obeyed and did not go ahead of Him and heal Lazarus but allowed him to die (v. 6).
 - c) Because of Martha and Mary's love for Jesus Christ, the sisters sent word to Jesus in the first place of Lazarus' plight (v.3).
 - d) Because of Jesus' love for Martha and Mary and Lazarus, Jesus was willing to go back into enemy territory and work a miracle as incredible as this (vv. 7-9).

D. It was under intense duress that Jesus conducted this miracle (v. 38).

- E. In addition to all of this, Jesus knows that this miracle clinches His betrayal.
 - 1. Mark 14:10-11 = It is not long after this that Judas begins to move on his evil plot.
 - a) Jesus knew this.
 - b) It was His hour.
 - 2. See also Matthew 26:14-16.
 - a) Notice context of Mary and the perfume (vv. 6-13).
 - b) In Judas' mind, apparently, Jesus was no longer a potential candidate for making money for Judas.

➤ This is why he was angry at the "waste" of perfume.

1 Timothy 6:6–11

6 But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

IV. V.6 "Therefore, as to the time when He heard that "He is sick," then alternatively, He remained two days in that place."

- A. Jesus, remember, is under orders.
- B. John is recalling the time when there is intense love and care for this dear family, and Jesus does something unthinkable-he waits in the face of an emergency.
- C. The way it is written = **seems to suggest that it was the very fact that he was sick that caused Jesus to wait.**

1. Why?

2. Simple-Jesus was waiting for Lazarus to die.

- a) For the glory of God, Lazarus was more use to Him dead, than alive.
- b) Or, in other words, there is greater glory in the death and resurrection of Lazarus, than in the sickness and healing of Lazarus.

D. Jesus waits until Lazarus dies.

1. Meanwhile,

- a) Martha and Mary have real sadness and distress.
- b) They wonder why Jesus waited ("Lord, if You had been here...")

2. However, life and death are alike to God.

E. This is the same for us.

1. Our worst calamity might just be happening in order to see the greatest glorification of the Son of God as He designs.

2. Consider trials:

- a) Romans 8:18
- b) 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:2
- c) 1 Peter 4:12-19

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

V. Conclusion

- A. We continue to learn of this great miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.
- B. What we fail to see usually is the great trial that Jesus is under, not Lazarus.

James 1:2–4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Stay in the trial until the Lord relieves you.
