

#12 JOHN C 11, Willhauck C 7 Lazarus.

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: John C 1-11, The Book of Signs; seven episodes in the ministry of Jesus selected to demonstrate aspects of Jesus as Messiah and the expectations of a messianic kingdom. The usual messianic hope was for a new king like David who would lead the people to unite, overthrow the oppressors and make Jerusalem a light to the nations. But John teaches us that: 1. Jesus the Messiah is the one who teaches and reveals what we need to know about God; 2. That accepting Jesus is the Way--to become a child of God, to enter the kingdom of heaven, the way to eternal life.

IV Overview: The lesson is not finished. There are two more things John wants us to know: 1. To be free from the fear of death, we need to know about the resurrection. 2. How will the disciples and followers of Jesus be taught after Jesus departs, i.e. the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit. Our chapter for today on Lazarus starts us on the way to understand the first part.

V Read John 11 and Willhauck C 7.

11:1-4. We have met the quarrelsome sisters in Luke 10:38-42 as they prepared dinner for Jesus and his party. Jesus composed a wonderful parable about his friend Lazarus as reported in Lk 16:19-31. We will compare the insights and message of the parable to Jn 11 later.

VI 11:4-16. John and Jesus do not want to leave us in the dark. They make very clear that something is about to happen. They even proclaim the purpose. What? v15.  
v8. The danger described by the disciples was very real. See 10:31-33. What do you think of Thomas' statement in v 16?

VII 11:17-38. Family and friends gather at wakes, visitations and funerals in order to support the people who are feeling grief and pain at the death of a loved one. If we were neglectful of the deceased, it is too late to make amends but we do try to assist the family.

VIII The sisters were harsh with Jesus, v21,32. In our world, we are less likely to accuse others of neglect concerning an untimely death but are more likely to accuse ourselves. This is especially true for families who have lost a child due to suicide or accident.

IX 11:39-44. The miracle story is brief, even laconic. Martha, as usual, is blunt, v39. Is there irony in the brief prayer of Jesus? 41b,42. Have you heard or spoken a prayer for the benefit of bystanders? If so, here is a precedent.

X The key passage is v 25,26: I am the resurrection and the life. The purpose of this episode is to prepare us for C 20, the resurrection of Jesus, and to demonstrate that the power of God reaches beyond the grave. There is a basic difference in the two events: What happened to the restored Lazarus? Jn 12:11  
What happened to the resurrected Jesus? Lk 24:51  
What is the essential difference? I Cor 15:20, 42, 50,53.  
What did the restored Lazarus teach us about post-death experience?  
What are the key points of Jesus parable on Lazarus? Lk 16:26  
Lk 16:31

XI Next time: John 11:45-54 and C12, Willhauck C8 Prologue to the Last Passover.

GMx