

The Essence of Life!

Twelve Sessions in the Gospel of John

Session Seven: A Miracle to Die For 5-15-03

What would you have to do to warrant the death penalty? In our sterilized society, the most heinous crime still results in pleas for leniency and mercy. Only the most brazen would ever be marked for capital punishment. It's hard to find the error worthy of death.

In the society of Israel, circa 30 A.D., the discussion went another direction altogether. For the people with the power to condemn the guilty, the crime worthy of death was really remarkable. In fact, the straw that broke that camel's back is the centerpiece of John's eleventh chapter. The raising of Lazarus from death was the final nail in Jesus' coffin: it will set in motion his arrest, trials and crucifixion. It was, literally, a miracle to die for.

As we see the event unfold, don't miss the message that stands out from the circumstances. The benefits of the miracle were short-lived, but the benefits of the message can still change your life today!

A. Information

1. The Background:

- A plea for help
John 11:1-3
- A delay in response
John 11:4-6
- A plan of action
John 11:7-16

2. The Discussions:

- The family's tragedy
John 11:17-20
- The family's spokesperson
John 11:21-28
- The family's grief
John 11:29-37

3. The Miracle:
 - An unlikely setting
John 11:38
 - An unbelieving audience
John 11:39-40
 - An undeniable demonstration
John 11:41-45

B. Analysis

1. The Purpose for the Miracle:
 - To stimulate belief
John 11:41-42
2. The Targets for the Miracle:
 - The disciples
John 11:14-15
 - The sisters
John 11:25-26
 - The Jews
John 11:45-46
3. The Significance of the Miracle:
 - People look for "net present value"
John 11:3,21
 - God offers deferred compensation
John 11:25-26
4. The Search for Comfort:
 - It is sought through speculation
John 11:21,32
 - It is sought through doctrine
John 11:24
 - It is sought through conviction
John 11:25-27

Essence

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26