

“Many of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, and they came—not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.”

Shalom. May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed.

The Word Jesus Spoke to His Disciples

At one time the Lord Jesus told His disciples these words:

John 12:24 — “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

He spoke these words after His disciples saw the large crowds following Him to be saved—many even coming from distant lands just to see Him. He also said this to teach them through an event that had happened only a few days earlier.

That event was the story of Lazarus.

Why Did Jesus Allow Lazarus to Die?

As many of us know, Lazarus was greatly loved by Jesus. He had been Jesus' close friend for a long time. But one day Lazarus became very sick. News reached Jesus—yet He did not rush to help. Instead, He remained where He was and allowed Lazarus to continue in sickness until he died.

Even after hearing of his death, Jesus waited two more days before going to Bethany where Lazarus and his sisters lived. When He finally arrived, Lazarus had already been buried and his body had begun to decay (John 11).

Why did Jesus allow this?

Because He wanted later to teach His disciples the meaning of the verse above and its consequences.

The Impact of Lazarus' Resurrection

When Jesus raised Lazarus and restored him to life—healthier than before—the Bible shows that this miracle shook the kingdom of darkness. Lazarus' testimony drew many people to Christ, so much that the chief priests even planned to kill Lazarus as well.

John 12:9-11 —

“A large crowd of the Jews learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.”

This shows how powerful the impact of Lazarus—who had died, been buried, and decayed—became in the spiritual realm, far more than the Lazarus who had never gone through death.

Two Types of Lazarus

Ask yourself:

Why didn't people follow Lazarus before?

Why didn't he attract anyone to Christ even though he was Jesus' beloved friend?

Even today, someone may say, "Christ is my friend," and truly know Him like the first Lazarus—but not like the Lazarus who died, was buried, and rose again.

That is why, shortly after this event, Jesus said:

John 12:24 — "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

This verse was rooted in the example of Lazarus.

The Spiritual Meaning: Dying to Sin

If you are saved but are not willing to "die"—to be seen as foolish for Christ's sake or mocked because you refuse certain things for Him—then you cannot be the second Lazarus. You cannot claim to be truly born

again.

If you are afraid to stop wearing revealing clothing because of what friends will say, you will not bear fruit for Christ—no matter how long you claim to have been saved.

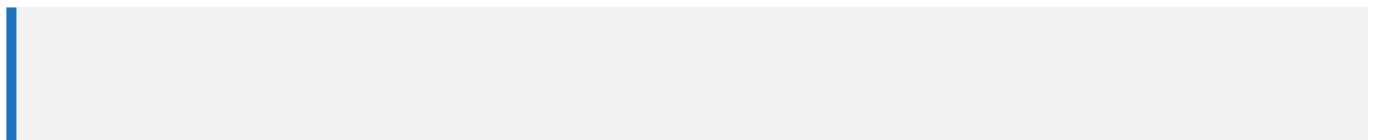
Some walked with Christ longer than we have, like Judas—yet he bore no fruit. Even Lazarus, though loved by Jesus, had no fruit before his death and resurrection. They had not yet died to sin.

If you fear leaving sexual immorality because of what others will say—if you fear being called “born again”—then you have not yet died and risen with Christ, and you will bear no fruit for Him.

The Call to True Fruitfulness

If we truly desire spiritual fruit, we must be willing to leave the world completely. This is Christ’s principle—there is no shortcut.

Remember this Word again:



WHICH LAZARUS ARE YOU — THE FIRST OR THE SECOND?

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

May the Lord help us all.

Be blessed.

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