

## Lesson #24

### RAISING LAZARUS

John 11:1-53; John 12: 9-11

(Jerry Kampius)

#### Background

- The last of seven miracles recorded by John
- Miracle occurred about one month prior to the death of Jesus
- This miracle was what brought the Sanhedrin to its decision to put Jesus to death
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were siblings
- They all lived in Bethany
- Their home was a favorite resting place for Jesus (Matt 23:17; Mark 11:11, 19; Luke 10: 41-42)

#### Story

- Jesus is busy doing ministry and preparing his disciples for the days to come
- He has just finished with a confrontation with the Jews which led to their desire to stone him
- Jesus takes his disciples back across the Jordan to where John had baptized in the early days of his ministry. People acknowledged John's teachings about Jesus and proclaimed them to be true resulting in many coming to faith in Christ.
- Jesus receives word that Lazarus is very sick. We do not know what the sickness was but it must have been very serious for his sisters to call for Jesus. They believed that He could heal Lazarus. Notice the simple words of the sisters in v. 3.
- Jesus already knew that Lazarus was dead.
- This may have been a 9-1-1 call from the sisters but Jesus takes His time to respond. **TWO MORE DAYS!**
- Jesus not only permitted Lazarus' sickness, but He allowed it to lead to his death.
- Jesus loved this entire family and yet He allowed pain for all of them.

*Have you ever wondered why God seems to take His time to respond to your call of desperation?*

- Jesus tells his disciples to make plans to head back to Judea where just a little while ago the Jews desired to stone Him.
- Jesus tells His disciples that His friend, their friend Lazarus is dead.

*What do you suppose the emotions of the disciples were when they received word that their friend was dead?*

- Notice in v. 16 that it was the one we call 'doubting Thomas' who said "Let's go with Him so that we may die with Him."
- Jesus heads to Bethany and is met by Martha.