Those Four Days

Tony Mauck · John 11:1–44

INTRODUCTION

- Those four days that we read about in John chapter 11 in verse 17, when it says, So when Jesus came, he found that he, Lazarus, had already been in the tomb four days.
- Death is described in James 2 and verse 26 as the Spirit leaving the body, or the spirit apart from the body.
- Is it better for Lazarus to have been raised from the dead? Or would it have been better for him to remain on in Abraham's bosom with the other Lazarus?

1 Jesus Describes Lazarus as Having Fallen Asleep

John 11:11–14; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I go that I may awaken him out of sleep.
- They have died physically, but death is not a permanent condition for the righteous. Thus it's described for the righteous as having fallen asleep.
- Death is not a permanent condition. They will be raised too on that day, and the dead in Christ shall be raised first, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

2 After Those Four Days, Lazarus Is Raised

John 11:24

- And then says, with resounding authority, Lazarus come forth.
- If Lazarus indeed had to exchange Abraham's bosom for a return to this world, he received less. But only temporarily so.
- All sick people do not get well. All sick Christians do not get well.
- We will greatly miss those who depart from us, but we must continually remind ourselves of the surpassing greatness of what lies beyond this world.

3 He Served as a Glorious Sign

Matthew 27:52–53; 1 Corinthians 15:54–57

- He served as a glorious sign of the power and the nature of the king.
- The tombs were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised and were coming out of the tombs after his resurrection.
- But what a glorious sign. The power of Jesus over death.
- Lazarus and these other resurrected saints would serve as an eyewitness to the Lord in the early days of the church.

4 Lazarus Got to Participate in the Era of Grace

1 Peter 1; Hebrews 11:39–40

- Had he not been raised from the dead, he would not have been present on the day of Pentecost.
- No one has arisen of woman greater than John the Baptist. He who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- All these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised. Because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.
- Lazarus' temporary earthly revival led him to eternal living.

5 Made Alive in Jesus, We Taste Eternal Life Now

Colossians 2:13; John 5:24; John 17:3

- Those who receive the blessings of grace, those who are made alive in Jesus, in a sense, we taste eternal life now.
- We have tasted of the heavenly gift. We have become partakers of the Holy Spirit.
- He who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. And does not come into judgment, but he has passed out of death into life.
- And this is eternal life. That they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

6 The Quality of Our Lives and an Eternal Perspective

1 Samuel 20:3

- No matter what happens to us in this world, we see things from an eternal perspective, an eternal viewpoint.
- We know that people can take our lives, but that's all that they can do.
- We have an understanding of our mortality that the world desperately needs but lacks.
- Jesus has prepared a place for us. I have a reservation there.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you in Christ? That's why you need to be in Christ. You need to pass from death to life. And you need to pursue knowing Him because knowing Him is eternal life.

MY NOTES