

## Lord, I Need Thee

### John 11:1-14 (NRSV) The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus<sup>[b]</sup> was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to the Gospel of John, Chapter 11 as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Now, I'd like to tag this text with the topic "Lord, I Need Thee."

As I woke up this morning and thought about all that is going on in this world, I could only pause and say "Lord, I Need Thee." From Covid-19 lingering and it's lasting impact on this world, I could only pray "Lord, I Need Thee." Reflecting on God's Blessings on you, your family, and on me and my family in the midst of a snowstorm... God has been faithful Y'all. I stand this morning to say that even on my best day... "Lord, I Need Thee." Can I get a witness? He's my bread on the table. He's my strong tower. My doctor in the sick room. He's my friend that sticketh closer than a brother. I just came to confess, that there are some things that I really don't need, but-But-BUT- Lord, I Need Thee Every Hour. Yes, Lord. And I am honored to proclaim that I am a follower of Jesus Christ. Do we have any followers of Jesus Christ in the house?

*Big Bethel, Jesus was extremely concerned that every follower of His would be filled with the Holy Ghost. It is my belief that any individual who is cognizant of the fact that they are going to face death within 24 hours will speak about what is of extreme importance to them. One will talk about that which is nearest and dearest in their hearts. It doesn't matter if someone is a jokester or not. They will talk about, with serious intent, what is most important in their minds.*

What did Jesus talk about when he was only hours from death?

See John Chapter 11; In this chapter Jesus performs a miracle. The miracle he performs is that He raises Lazarus from the dead, and it is this miracle that determines in the minds of Jesus' enemies that He must die and die quickly.

*Now, Lazarus was not the only person Jesus raises; he is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person that Jesus raises according to the bible history that we have a record of Him raising.*

(Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue.)

Jairus' young daughter was the 1<sup>st</sup> that we have record of... Jesus had just landed on that coast and Jairus shared with Jesus, "Lord, my daughter is sick unto death. I want you to come go home with me and heal her." Jesus consented to go with him, but while he was enroute the Woman with the issue of Blood seemingly comes out of nowhere. One of the most preached about women in the bible; she pushes her way through the crowd.

(Pushes by Phillip, Bartholomew, etc.)

Please note that she was ceremonially unclean. She had no business mixing with the public, but pushes by many of the disciples and comes into the inner circle (Peter, James, & John), and touches the hem of His garment. She was instantly made whole. Who touched me, Jesus said, "I know someone touched me because I felt the virtue come out of me..."

What did the disciples do? The disciples said "Master don't get upset; we've got a big crowd out her today." Jesus said, "Somebody that needed my help touched me; I felt it. I felt the virtue come out of me." By the time he finished and got to Jairus' house; Jairus daughter was already dead. The mourners had already assembled. It is believed that she had been dead an hour or two. Then the Lord does something that He does on occasion and got a select number... He left 9 of the disciples outside. Then He took Peter, James, John, Jairus, Jairus' wife, and Jesus himself. When they got around the bed, the young girl made 7. And when God gets his number something amazing happens. He reached out and touched her by the hand. He simply said damsel, I say unto the arise. And She Sat Up! (The critics said she wasn't dead, she fainted).

Next, we see Jesus with his disciples enroute to the village of Nain. The widow woman is on the way to bury her son and their mourners were on their way to funeral. Jesus didn't do anything but hit the bier (open part of the casket); Jesus hit the board, then the boy sit up. (The critics said he was in a coma).

I can hear Jesus say "Uh Huhhh."

Now when Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was sick, he didn't stop what He was doing. He waited, then Jesus shared that his friend Lazarus was dead. By the time Jesus gets to Bethany, Lazarus has been dead four days. Buried four days y'all. Mortification had set in; and the stench of death was already in the air. When He first got there Mary and Martha

said "Lord, if you had been here our brother would not have died."

Jesus said show me where they laid him. Martha said, you don't want to go up there Lord, it stinks up there. But Jesus didn't seem to care. He simply went to the entrance of the cave and called him by his name. Jesus simply goes to the entrance of that cave and says "Lazarus." (Some theologians believe that the spirit of Lazarus has crossed over the sea of time and that he was talking with some of the Patriarchs of Old.) They were asking Lazarus questions: Is it true that the Messiah has come? Is it true? Does he spend the night with you? Well, Is it true that you know the Holy One and that He eats with You Mary, and Martha? Is it true?

And before Lazarus could answer... The Voice of Jesus rang out in that grave... Lazarus paused for a moment and said "Hush, Hush, Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name." And the spirit of Lazarus got back into that body and came back out of the tomb. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. I simply came to remind you today that we need the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.

You See in John 14, the Lord says "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*"<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*"<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*"<sup>4</sup> *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*"<sup>5</sup> *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*"<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. In verse 12 the word says* "<sup>12</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."<sup>13</sup> *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*"<sup>14</sup> *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*"<sup>15</sup> *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"<sup>16</sup> *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;*

John 3:16 – <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 14:17 – <sup>17</sup>Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Before you can get the Holy Ghost; You got to get in Jesus. The last night of His earthly life Jesus talked about the Holy Ghost. In John Chapter 14:16 – I pray the father; he'll give you another (The term another is indicative of one coming before).

John Chapter 14, 15, 16 – Share themes of Jesus going away. John 15 – Share the theme of Jesus as the true vine. John 16 - <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

In Closing, If you are lost, the Lord will find you. His arms are open to you now. Come on in out of the storm. We welcome you into the family. Romans 10:9 is a fitting scripture where you can find rest and refuge. Then you too can sing: O' I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee; Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee. I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby; Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh. I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; Come quickly and abide, or life is vain. I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will; And Thy rich promises

in me fulfill. Amen.