

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 11:45-57)

1. Have you ever witnessed something that was truly unbelievable (i.e. if you hadn't seen it you wouldn't believe that it happened)?  
What was it that you witnessed?  
Was there any part of you that wondered if it really happened at all, or were you sure that it was real the entire time?  
Looking at our passage, the opening verses show the responses of people who witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead  
Seeing Jesus do this would be "unbelievable, but there's no indication that any of them questioned what they'd seen.  
The difference was in how they responded to what they'd witnessed.  
What responses are indicated here and what made the difference even though they all witnessed the same event?
2. In one sense, there is somewhat of a cumulative case with the signs that Jesus has done  
Each miracle provides undeniable evidence of Jesus' divinity and authority, but together it is overwhelmingly plain who He is!  
John 2 - Turning water into wine  
John 4 - Healing of the official's son (with no contact with the child)  
John 5 - Healing of the paralytic (38 years unable to walk)  
John 6 - Feeding of the 5000 men (with two fish & five loaves)  
John 6 - Walking on water  
John 9 - Healing of the man blind from birth  
John 11 - Raising of Lazarus  
In nearly every case, the result is the same - some of the people are drawn to belief in Jesus, and others reject Him outright.  
What is so uniquely impressive about this particular miracle compared to all of the previous miracles John's recorded?  
How does the obedience of a dead man to Jesus' command parallel all of us in our spiritual lives?  
What does THIS reveal about the nature of salvation and the role we play in our salvation?  
What leads the dead person to be brought [back] to life?  
What does the dead person contribute in his own regeneration?  
This physical miracle reveals the same reality that is in the spiritual realm - our part is only to respond!
3. What is the response of the Pharisees when they are informed of Jesus' miraculous work in raising Lazarus from the dead?  
How do you think their hearts got to such a place that they see Jesus' works and STILL deny who He really is?  
What factors do you think contribute to them having such a disposition and why would they work so hard to stop Jesus?  
(Remember, these are the leaders/teachers of Israel, who should be leading people to the Messiah).  
They sincerely believed themselves to be standing up for God though they were set against God's ways.  
What are some areas in your own life that you might be susceptible to this?  
Have you ever found yourself thinking your battling for God only to find yourself fighting against Him?  
How can we protect our hearts from "the yeast of the Pharisees" and remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit?

4. As the Sanhedrin meets, we see them scheme against Jesus and their plans become solidified to try to stop Him.

Consider how foolish their plans really are:

They want to stop the man who just demonstrated his authority over death by putting Him to death.

At the same time, look at how Caiaphas' evil words recorded here are ultimately prophetic and reveal God's greater plan.

How often in Scripture do we see man making their evil plans and God using it for His glory and the good of His people?

How can we find encouragement in this truth - and how can this provide perspective when we sense evil is around us?

What does this reveal about the nature of our God that he would take even that which is evil and use it for good?

How can this comfort us in times of uncertainty, doubt, and persecution?

**\*\*Truly, this is a great gift of the Lord for us - to be able to have an eternal perspective in the midst of temporal trials!!**

(Read Romans 8:18-30 and James 1:2-4)

5. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. Every person will either love Jesus or reject Him!

*There's no neutral response (indifference = rejection)*

2. Don't let temporal values blind you to eternal truths!

3. What man intends for evil, God can use for good!

4. God's plans cannot be thwarted by evil scheming!

5. Jesus' sacrificial death will unite all of God's children!