

Deader Than Dead  
John 11:45-57

I. *The purpose of great miracles is to inspire faith and life –*

<sup>45</sup> Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. John 11:45 (NKJV)

1. *This purpose is communicated by John as his reason for writing this Gospel –*

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

A. *We should “believe” just reading about these miracles (signs) how much more actually seeing them?*

B. *The raising of Lazarus was seen by a crowd and undoubtedly was among the greatest of Jesus’ miracles!*

2. *This purpose is achieved in all who do believe, including those who had actually witnessed this miracle ...*

II. *Faith (and LIFE) comes by HEARING –*

<sup>43</sup> Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “**Lazarus, come forth!**” <sup>44</sup> And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “**Loose him, and let him go.**” John 11:43–44 (NKJV)

1. *A man dead and buried four days responds to Christ’s Voice and Words! They are Life-giving words –*

<sup>63</sup> **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.** John 6:63 (NKJV)

2. *Yet, others, physically alive but spiritually DEAD hear with rotten hearts –*

<sup>46</sup> But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. John 11:46 (NKJV)

III. *The Deader than dead depravity of man –*

<sup>46</sup> But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. <sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” <sup>49</sup> And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, <sup>50</sup> nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” John 11:46–50 (NKJV)

1. *The same rain and sunshine that causes flowers and fruit trees to grow, causes manure to STINK!*

2. *The ungodly often proclaim, “if I saw someone risen from the dead, I would believe.” But here we see the opposite is the case:*

A. *Some see Lazarus risen, and yet all they do is run to Jesus’ enemies ... :46*

B. *These enemies, religious leaders, people who acknowledge not only this great miracle, but others; miracles, signs, plural but they do not acknowledge the Miracle Worker –*

**<sup>7</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. John 11:45 (NKJV)**

C. *Note they not only acknowledge the miracle, but also anticipate the FAITH the miracle would inspire –*

**<sup>48</sup> If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” John 11:48 (NKJV)**

- *They knew the miracle should / would inspire faith*
- *They expected it would inspire a lot of faith - everyone will believe in Him*
- *Yet they, themselves, refuse to believe!*

3. *This depravity was despite great privilege and learning – these were Pharisees, chief priests and even Caiaphas the high priest. Paul tells of the great privilege the Jews had in general –*

**10 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:1–5 (NKJV)**

A. *Some passed through the Red Sea,*

B. *Ate spiritual food, drank spiritual drink, yet died in the wilderness*

C. *Here some see a resurrection and yet they do not believe ...*

D. *These had privileged positions under Rome –*

**<sup>48</sup> If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” John 11:48 (NKJV)**

4. *They were Big Shots, and they knew following Christ meant giving up that “Big Shot” status –*

**23 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. <sup>4</sup> For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. <sup>5</sup> But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. <sup>6</sup> They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ Matthew 23:1–7 (NKJV)**

#### IV. *Killing Christ was their only solution -*

<sup>49</sup> And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, <sup>50</sup> nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” <sup>51</sup> Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

<sup>53</sup> Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. <sup>54</sup> Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples.

<sup>55</sup> And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. <sup>56</sup> Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, “What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?”

<sup>57</sup> Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report *it*, that they might seize Him. John 11:49–57 (NKJV)

##### 1. A true prophecy from a false man –

The wrong thinking of Caiaphas –

<sup>49</sup> And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, <sup>50</sup> nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”

##### A. *Expedient for one man to die –*

*One rather than many, the way that seems right to MAN –*

<sup>12</sup> There is a way *that seems right to a man*, but its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> There is a way *that seems right to a man*, but its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)

##### B. *Death (murder) is the way of the thief and the Devil –*

<sup>10</sup> **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.** John 10:10 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> **You are of *your father the devil*, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does *not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.** John 8:44 (NKJV)

##### C. *This is why abortion is often considered more of a solution than adoption ...*

##### D. *These people were dead in trespasses and sins –*

<sup>2</sup> And you **He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins**, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV)

##### 2. Yet Jesus’ dying for sinners, for us, was God’s plan –

<sup>51</sup> Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

V. *A dying Savior is our only Way of Salvation -*

<sup>19</sup> Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. <sup>21</sup> Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:19–22 (NKJV)

<sup>53</sup> Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. John 11:53 (NKJV)

1. *There was nothing good in the Jews evil plotting against Jesus!*

2. *Satan came into Judas, as he (Judas) had a wicked part with these wicked men –*

<sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. <sup>4</sup> So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. <sup>5</sup> And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. Luke 22:3–6 (NKJV)

3. *The Gentiles, Roman soldiers also had their part in Jesus’ suffering and death –*

<sup>19</sup> So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. John 19:1–3 (NKJV)

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