

John 11:43-57

43. Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come forth!**"

- **John 5:28** "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which _____ who are in the _____ will _____ His _____ and come _____."

NOTE: "Lazarus, COME FORTH!" - If Jesus had not **specified Lazarus by name**, perhaps ALL the graves would have opened, because John 5:28 says "**ALL who are in the GRAVES will hear His voice and come forth.**"

44. 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 20:5-7** "And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen _____ lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the _____; and he _____ the linen _____ lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His _____, not lying with the linen cloths, but _____ together in a place by itself."

Definition: "BOUND hand and foot with GRAVECLOTHES" - Why didn't Jesus just bring Lazarus back from the dead already unbound? When Jesus rose from the dead, He come out of the graveclothes altogether, and the disciples saw the graveclothes lying there, and the face cloth wrapped up and laid on the side. Why is Lazarus' situation **so different**? The answer is because **Lazarus was only being resurrected temporarily**. Jesus brought him back to life and healed him of the disease that had killed him, but Lazarus would go on to **live the rest of his life, and die a natural death eventually**. When Jesus rose from the dead, He rose in a supernatural, resurrection body that was able to "zap" right through the graveclothes, the tomb, and later through closed doors.

Definition: "LOOSE HIM, and LET HIM GO" - Why didn't Jesus loose (unwrap) Lazarus? Why did Jesus **say to His disciples to loose Lazarus** from his graveclothes? I believe the lesson for us is that **WE ARE ALL LIKE Lazarus**. We receive **NEW LIFE** when we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ, but **we all still have the stinky, old graveclothes of our OLD LIFE** wrapped around us, **tripping us up**. We **need one another in the church, the Body of Christ**, to help unwrap each other from old habits, character defects and shortcomings, and whatever else is still clinging to us from our old sin nature. God's word tells us to assemble together often, especially for the purpose of hearing God's word **PREACHED**. When we hear the word, and **fellow Believers exhort and encourage us**, it helps us get **UNWRAPPED** and untangled (Hebrews 12:1) from our old sinful habits. We need other Believers to help us see our blind spots - to help us see where we are **still dragging some "graveclothes" around**.

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** "And let us consider one _____ in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but _____ one _____, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
- **Hebrews 12:1** "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every _____, and the _____ which so easily _____ us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

- **II Timothy 3:16-17** "All _____ is given by inspiration of God, and is _____ for doctrine, for reproof, for _____, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Definition: "For REPROOF" - To reprove means to call attention to a fault or sin, with kindly intent to correct or assist. Correction is to bring into conformity with a standard - in this case, God's standard. **GOD'S WORD gives us the ABSOLUTE standard** that we need to live by. Otherwise, we would just end up comparing ourselves to others, and the standard would keep dropping lower and lower.

45-48. Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then **the CHIEF PRIESTS and the PHARISEES gathered a COUNCIL** and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 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.**"

- **Matthew 26:3** "Then the chief _____, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and _____ Him."
- **Mark 14:55** "And the chief _____ and all the _____ sought testimony _____ Jesus to put Him to _____, and found none."

Definition: "the CHIEF PRIESTS and the PHARISEES" - The priests and the ruling body of the Jews (called the Sanhedrin) were made up of two parties: the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees believed in a RESURRECTION and believed in ANGELS, and the Sadducees did not. The Sadducees would be similar to ministers in our modern day liberal churches, which do not believe in the literal miracles of the Bible, and do not believe the Bible is God's inspired word. The Sadducees **PARTICULARLY hated Jesus** because He raised Lazarus from the dead, since **THEY taught there was NO resurrection** from the dead. The high priest, Caiaphas, was a Sadducee.

- **Acts 5:17** "Then the high _____ rose up, and _____ those who were _____ him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation (anger)."
- **Read Acts 23:6-8** (Verse 8) "For the Sadducees _____ that there is no _____ and no _____ or _____; but the Pharisees confess both."
- **Mark 12:18** "Then some Sadducees, who _____ there is no _____, came to Him....."

Definition: "The ROMANS will come and TAKE AWAY our PLACE" - The Pharisees and Sadducees were **TERRIFIED of losing their positions of POWER**. As long as they kept the Roman government happy, the Romans left them alone, and allowed them to rule their own people. They were afraid that if Jesus got the people stirred up, the Roman soldiers would come, **kick the Jews out of power**, and would put in their own Roman governor.

49-53. And one of them, **Caiaphas, being high priest that year**, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 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." 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**, and not for that nation only, but also that **He would GATHER TOGETHER in ONE the children of God** who were **scattered abroad**. Then from that day on they plotted to put Him to death.

- **Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own _____ toward us, in that while we were still _____, Christ _____ for _____."
- **II Corinthians 5:14-15** "For the love of _____ constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One _____ for _____, then all died; and He _____ for _____, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who _____ for _____ and rose again."
- **Isaiah 53:8** "He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off (killed) from the land of the _____; for the transgressions of My _____ He was stricken."

Definition: "Being HIGH PRIEST that year he PROPHESED" - It pleased God to speak His truth even through the lips of this wicked high priest to give a prophecy concerning Jesus' death. In times past, God even used the mouth of a donkey, and another wicked prophet, Balaam, to speak His truth in a certain situation (see Numbers chapters 22-24). It was the **OFFICE or POSITION of High Priest** that was holy, but the MAN in that office, Caiaphas, was wicked and unholy (also read Acts 23:1-10).

Definition: "He would GATHER TOGETHER in ONE the CHILDREN of God who were SCATTERED ABROAD" - Jesus would not only die for the nation of Israel, but for the whole world. God has His people all over the world ("scattered abroad") **who are waiting to hear the Gospel and believe**, and that is why we send out missionaries. Acts 13:48 says "as many as had been APPOINTED to eternal life BELIEVED." This is a great mystery, and something we must just take by faith, but God already KNOWS and has ALREADY CHOSEN those who will believe in Him.

- **John 10:16** "And _____ sheep I have which are not of this _____; them also I must _____, and they will hear My voice; and there will be _____ flock and one shepherd."
- **Matthew 15:24** "But He answered and said, 'I was not sent _____ to the lost _____ of the house of _____.'"
- **Acts 13:46-48** "Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, 'It was necessary that the _____ of _____ should be spoken to you (the Jews) first; but since you _____ it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we _____ to the _____. For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have set you to be a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for _____ to the _____ of the _____. ' Now when the _____ heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as _____ as had been _____ to eternal life _____.'"
- **Acts 18:9-10** "Now the _____ spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but _____, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have _____ in this city.'"

Definition: "The LOST SHEEP of the HOUSE of ISRAEL" - Jesus did not become the SAVIOR of the WORLD until AFTER He died on the cross and shed His blood for the sins of the world. Then, He would go to the "other sheep" of His, the Gentiles.

- **I John 2:2** "And He _____ is the propitiation (sacrifice, atonement) for our _____, and not for _____ only, but also for the _____."
- **Acts 11:18** "When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then _____ has also _____ to the _____ repentance to _____.'"

Definition: "Caiaphas, being HIGH PRIEST that year" - We no longer NEED TO HAVE an earthly high priest or priesthood. **Jesus is our HIGH PRIEST**, and God says

that WE as individual Believers in Christ are PRIESTS, and together as a body, we are His royal priesthood. Any religion, such as Roman Catholicism or Mormonism, that **claims to be Christian**, yet has a priesthood system of any kind, is FALSE and an offense to God. They have taken things from the Old Testament, such as going through a priest to get to God, and have come up with **their own MAN-MADE RELIGION**. For them to claim to be Christian is **calling God a liar!** God says **we don't have to go through priests anymore**, and that the way to God is open to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. The veil in the temple in Jerusalem was torn in two from top to bottom (by God Himself, Matthew 27:51) when Jesus paid for our sins on the cross! It was their sins that prevented them from going directly to God in the Old Testament, and the priestly system was set up by God ONLY for the purpose of offering sacrifices UNTIL the Messiah would come. Now, if a person has accepted Jesus as their Savior, their sins are completely taken away, and are no longer keeping them apart from God.

- **Hebrews 4:15** "For we do not have a _____ who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but [He] was in all points _____ as we are, yet _____ sin."
- **Hebrews 7:26** "For such a _____ was fitting for us, who is _____, harmless, _____, _____ from _____, and has become higher than the heavens."
- **I Peter 2:5 & 9** "_____, also, as living stones, are being _____ up [to be] a spiritual house, a holy _____, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." "But _____ are a chosen generation, a royal _____, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Definition: "To OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE to God" - What kind of sacrifices do we offer up to God that are acceptable to Him? We know that animal sacrifices are no longer required, and in fact would now be detestable to God, because they were only a picture of what Jesus would do when He became the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. **The SACRIFICES that are acceptable to God from us today** are the sacrifices of PRAISE, and the sacrifices of doing good and serving God with the right motives.

- **Hebrews 13:15-16** "Therefore by Him let us continually _____ the _____ of _____ to God, that is, the fruit of our _____, giving _____ to His name. But do not forget to do _____ and to _____, for with such _____ God is well _____."

54-57. 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. And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. **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?**" 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 7:10-13** "But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went _____ to the _____, not _____, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews _____ Him (looked for Him) at the _____, and said, "Where is He?" And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." However, no one spoke _____ of Him for _____ of the _____."