

Red Letter Prayers  
Week 2 outline  
7.7.19  
John 11:38-44

## RAISING LAZARUS

### I. **An Unordinary Request** (vs38-41a)

**38** *Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone.*

#### A. **"Take away the stone"**

-in today's world: "hey guys, dig up that dead body"

#### B. **"but Lord, said the sister of the dead man"**

-ie: "but God, this doesn't make any sense!"

#### C. **"if you believe, you will see the glory of God"**

-Jesus directly connects our faith in him with our obedience to him.

#### D. **"So they took away the stone."**

-Confronted with the the perplexity of Jesus' request, His followers made the bold faith-filled choice to get to work.

-In the midst of uncertainty, when we choose to act in faith through obedience, we witness the glory of God, and discover the heart of Jesus.

UNCERTAINTY IS NOT A DISQUALIFIER OF FAITH...  
IT'S THE VERY THING THAT NECESSITATES IT.

### II. **An Extraordinary Prayer**

*Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

#### A. **"Father"**

-Jesus prayed to His Father in relationship with His Father.

#### B. **"I thank you that you have heard me"**

-Jesus prayed from a heart of gratitude.

#### C. **"I knew that you always hear me"**

-Jesus prayed with a confession of faith.

#### D. **"but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here,"**

-Jesus prayed for the sake of the crowd.

**E. "that they may believe that you sent me"**

-Jesus prayed that we might know where he came from and why he was sent.

JESUS WAS SENT BY GOD FOR THE GLORY OF GOD,  
AS RESURRECTING LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PEOPLE.

**III. An Ordinary Purpose (vs 43-44)**

**43** *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"* **44** *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

**A. "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."**

-Jesus calls us to participate in real resurrecting-life miracles with him;  
creating opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

JUST AS JESUS WAS GOD-SENT FOR OUR SAKE,  
WE ARE CHRIST-SENT FOR OTHERS' SAKE.

1. Where, through obedience in the midst of uncertainty, are you witnessing the glory of God and discovering the heart of Jesus? Don't miss it!
2. How might Jesus' prayer in John 11 reshape how you pray?
3. How are you helping to "take off the grave clothes and let him go"?