

John 11:39-46

John 11:39-40 – *“(39) Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. (40) Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”*

A. Jesus is at the cave (**John 11:38**) and He will now do a great, memorable wonder (**Psalms 77:11; 14**).

1. After this miracle people will hear about and remember what occurred (**John 12:9** and **John 12:17-18**).
2. Remember, the purpose behind the raising of Lazarus from the dead is that God might be glorified (**John 11:4**; cf. **John 14:13**).

B. To be clear, faith was not required for a miracle to be performed (**John 10:37-38**, **John 20:30-31**, and **I Corinthians 14:22**).

1. Miracles were performed for confirmation of the message (**Mark 16:15-20**).
2. Once people saw, that was often the time when they believed (**John 2:23**, **John 6:2**, and **Acts 13:7-12**).
3. At the same time, seeing a miracle performed did not assure one would believe (**Acts 14:1-5**).
4. Therefore, the performance of this miracle did not hinge on the faith of Martha. For Martha to really see the miracle and understand what was done required faith (**John 12:37-41**).

John 11:41-44 – *“(41) Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. (42) And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. (43) And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. (44) And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”*

A. Jesus looked to Heaven (**Psalms 123:1** and **Matthew 6:9**) giving thanks to His Father (**Philippians 4:6**).

1. Jesus wasn't out for His own glory and honor (**John 5:41** and **John 8:50**; cf. **John 7:18**).
 - a. We should note here that Jesus is worthy of honor (**John 5:23**).
 - b. The Father certainly honored Jesus (**II Peter 1:16-17**).

2. Jesus knew His Father always heard Him (**John 8:29**; cf. **I Peter 3:12**).
3. Jesus said these things so that bystanders might see that Christ came from God the Father (**John 6:29**; cf. **John 12:28-30**).

B. Jesus spoke and Lazarus was raised from the dead (**Luke 7:11-16** and **Acts 9:36-42**).

1. Words spoken by the Lord are very powerful (**Psalms 33:6** and **Hebrews 11:3**).

2. When the word of the Lord goes forth it does not fail (**Isaiah 55:10-11**).

John 11:45-46 – *“(45) Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. (46) But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.”*

A. Many believed when they saw what was done (**John 10:40-42**).

1. Seeing something marvelous is moving, but the Lord wants faith from His word rather than just His works (**John 20:26-29**, **Romans 1:16**, and **Romans 10:17**).

2. Moreover, you have to stick around once the hard lessons are taught (**John 6:59-69**; cf. **John 8:31-32**, **Colossians 1:23**, and **II Timothy 4:6-8**).

B. Some saw what was done and chose to report it to the Pharisees (**John 11:57**; cf. **John 9:8-13**).

1. The Pharisees had reports given to them not to learn, but because they sought to destroy our Lord (**Matthew 12:14**).

2. The Apostles later faced “spies” too (**Acts 5:22-25**).

a. You never know who among you is there just to watch and report what’s going on (**Galatians 2:1-5**).

b. We must always be on guard (**Acts 20:28-31** and **I Thessalonians 5:6**).

c. Sometimes there are just people watching and waiting so that they might accuse us of something (**Mark 3:1-2**).