

Saint Raymond Church Bible Study
The Gospel of John, Chapter 11 on October 14, 2020

Welcome

Song of Praise

Thank you, Lord,
Been so good...

Gathering Prayer

Witness to the Beauty of Human Life

Deacon Bill Bradley

The Raising of Lazarus (11, 1-44)

- Jesus is Informed (1-4)
 - Lazarus means “God helps”; the family is from Bethany close to Jerusalem; they were close friends of Jesus as we see in other Gospels (many dinners, including Sabbath before Passover as well as 2 days before his death); this story is unique to John’s Gospel; Bethany = bet (house) hen (grace)
 - The two sisters are identified (this is not the sinful woman who wiped Jesus feet)
 - This Lazarus is NOT the same as the “Lazarus & Rich Man” story in Luke’s Gospel
 - This will not end in death: but it does! Yet, John means something more: what Jesus gives is a sign of eternal life and lead others to glorify Christ and see His as THE resurrection. The fullness of glory is not revealed in these days of Jesus’ Ministry – only after he ascends.
- Jesus is Delayed (5-16)
 - Jesus was spending 3 months in the area where he was baptized; a mostly Gentile area called Perea. He went there after the experience in the Temple (Chapter 10) when they plotted his death.
 - Jesus starts his journey on the “3rd” day as a sign of the resurrection (he delays a day at the 2nd miracle at Cana as well); “3” is a number that highlights IMPORTANCE
 - 12 hours in a day....Jesus is referring to John 9, 4-5 as that he is the LIGHT of the world; now is not the time for the darkness that will eventually come upon them (when they all abandon Jesus)
 - He is sleeping... Christians should see death as a sleep that leads to a rising to new life. Jesus is “glad” because it becomes a chance to strengthen their faith (what doesn’t kill you can make you stronger).
 - Let us die with him... Thomas, usually remembered as a doubter, is here a man of faith who is willing to die as they head back to an area that is very challenging.
- Jesus Arrives (17-27)
 - Four days...he is really dead (the soul may remain for 3 days according to the Jews)!
 - The Jewish mourning began after the burial (which was done quickly). The Jews grieved sperately – men and women. The grieving period lasts 30 days and included loud wailing.
 - If you had been here... you would have healed him. St. Augustine says that he not asking for him to be raised shows Martha’s perfect faith (like BVM) – whatever God desires will be done. The image is consistent from the story about the women in Luke’s Gospel as Martha again is “with Jesus”.
 - Your brother will rise... Martha may misunderstand Jesus at first (is he just offering comfort?). There are OT references (Job 19, 25-26; Isa 26, 19; Daniel 12, 2-3) to a bodily resurrection but there was not universal agreement among the Jewish teachers.
 - I AM the resurrection and the life – the 5th I AM statement. Jesus gives new life in the PRESENT moment. Jesus desires to impact us NOW with new life.
 - Yes, I believe...a response of professing faith. “I have come to know”
- **DISCUSS:** In what ways do you identify with Martha’s movement in faith? What have you “come to know” about Christ recently?

- The Conversation (28-37)
 - Master=Teacher; the whispering of Martha may indicate danger. Mary falls at the feet of Jesus weeping.
 - Jesus' distress: is he emotionally moved or angry? The word is used elsewhere to describe how Jesus felt when Satan entered Judas and Jesus' seeing others suffer. Jesus is not angry with Mary but with having to face the games of Satan again (like in the Garden near Bethany).
 - What will Jesus do now...for his friend!
- The Rising (38-44)
 - Sighing...(moved again)...the tomb is 6'x9'x10'; likely borrowed for a year (or the family had wealth) until bones would be collected and buried; the stink!
 - Jesus calls God ABBA (uncommon for Jews); the intimacy he desires for us all that made many uncomfortable.
 - Lazarus come out...in death we do not lose our identity, we are US (reincarnation denied). In this 6th sign, a dead man comes out (like Jairus' daughter and the widow's son) but this man was dead 4 days.
 - In the catacombs of Rome there are 150 depictions of Lazarus being raised; St Augustine draws a connection to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (we are called by name to admit our death and the power of Christ frees us from what binds us).
- **DISCUSS:** Why do you believe Confession remains so "underused" by Catholics? What is one suggestion to renew its practice?

Session of the Sanhedrin (11, 45-54)

- The Gathering (45-48)
 - "sunago" – to collect or convenes: likely the Sanhedrin, a Jewish Court with far reaching jurisdiction on civil and religious matters (with Roman okay); composed of priests, elders and scribes (mostly Pharisees)
 - The "elders" want to avoid a messianic movement that threatens Rome (destruction will come in 70)
 - Under Jewish Law the High Priest served for life but Rome used it to play politics and prevent one man from having that power (the pagan high priests of Rome changed yearly too). Most historians agree this Caiaphas served 18 years. The High priest who is the one who makes the sin offering on Yom Kippur; he chooses the sin offering for sure – Jesus! The OT High Priest enshrines the NY High Priest on the Cross.
- The Plan (49-54)
 - "scattered" anticipates feeding of 5000 when pieces will be gathered; the mission of Jesus; Jesus will save all; it is the same "sunago" word – lots of "gathering"
 - We are unsure of the town's location; we know they are trying to give Jesus a safe place to teach and minister
- **DISCUSS:** In the midst of such division today, how can the local Church "gather" people?

The Last Passover (11, 55-57)

- Jesus had attended this feast before. The country people would have arrived early for these 8 days of celebrations and spent time "preparing" well.
- Jesus does not give into fear.
- **DISCUSS:** How do you prepare for Sunday Mass (if you do)? Why? What would you like to do to prepare better?

Announcements

- 10am "overflow" continues Sunday in the School Hall
- Bible Study for the next 2 Wednesdays and then Small Groups (contact Minta to join one)

Intercessory Prayer, Lord's Prayer & Blessing