

Marvel

The Seven Miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of John

About the Series: Throughout His ministry, Jesus performed miracles to authenticate and validate His message of truth. This series will look at the seven miracles of Jesus recorded in the gospel of John to give us a unique perspective of God's power and might, because what we believe about God directly affects how we live out the Christian life.

Part 7

No Fear for Death

John 11:1-45 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

In our Asian culture, we avoid the word *death* at all costs. Anything associated with death is to be avoided, from numbers that sound similar to death like the number "4," to colors associated with death like black and white. For most people, their biggest fear in life is death and the uncertainties that come with it, but as followers of Christ, we do not need to fear death. As recorded in the Gospel of John, Jesus clearly showed His power and authority over life and death and revealed clearly that He is the divine Son of God, God Himself. Read John 11:1-45.

God's timing in answering our requests is not indicative of His level of love for us (v. 1-7).

- Who were Lazarus, Martha and Mary? What did the sisters expect Jesus to do when Lazarus got sick? Why?
- How did Jesus respond to the news that his friend Lazarus was sick?
- Have you ever waited for a long time for God's answer to your prayer? Did you question God's love for you for not answering right away?

- Have you ever thanked God that He didn't give you what you initially wanted?

We should not fear physical death because in Christ there is resurrection and life (v. 8-27).

- Why did the disciples try to dissuade Jesus from going to Bethany? Why was Jesus not afraid of death? How did He picture the death of Lazarus?
- Why is death for a Christian pictured as one "sleeping?" Are you afraid of death? Why?
- Why is it important to have a heavenly mindset instead of focusing on all the temporary injustices, troubles, and sadness in this sinful but temporary world?
- Upon their arrival in Bethany, what did they hear happened to Lazarus? What was the reaction of Martha, then later on Mary, to the arrival of Jesus?
- What do you imagine your reaction would be if in the midst of a difficult situation, the Lord can, but did not, help you?
- What did Jesus claim and mean in what He said in verse 25?

Jesus compassionately empathizes with us even if His sovereign will is that we undergo suffering for our ultimate good (v. 28-37).

- Why did the weeping of Mary and the people with her trouble Jesus, which carries with it a feeling of anger and outrage?
- What was Jesus angry about that caused God to send His Son Jesus Christ to die for us?
- What was the reason Jesus wept? How do you feel that God empathizes with you even if His sovereign will is that you undergo suffering for your ultimate good?

If Jesus has power and authority over life and death, then we can trust Him in all things (v.38-45).

- How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? What was His purpose for doing so (v. 42)?
- What is the difference between Lazarus' resurrection from Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection in the future?
- If the Lord Jesus is victorious over death, is there anything you can't entrust to Him? Had you been there when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how would you have responded?

REFLECT

How does the knowledge that Jesus Christ has authority and power over life and death serve as an encouragement to you and help you overcome your fear of death? Do you look forward to eternity, knowing that the future is bright because of Jesus Christ?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, knowing and understanding that our Lord Jesus Christ has authority and power over life and death is truly an assurance that we are very secured in Your hands. Thank You that we can trust Him in all things. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.