

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent – 04-03-2022**

“When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Sir, come and see.’ And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him.’ But some of them said, ‘Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?’”

Why was Jesus perturbed and so deeply troubled? Why did he weep? He certainly knew that Lazarus would rise again.

I wonder if he was perturbed and troubled at everyone’s lack of faith and he wept because they were still putting all their hope in this life.

Did anyone, including his disciples, Marth or Mary, even recall the story that Jesus had previously told about the poor man of the same name – Lazarus.

If you recall, there were two individuals involved – Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man enjoyed everything this life had to offer while Lazarus had nothing but when they died the rich man went off to eternal punishment and Lazarus was at peace in the bosom of his Father Abraham.

From his place of suffering, the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers so that they might be converted.

But Abraham said to the rich man, they have Moses and the prophets let them listen to them.

Then the rich man replied but Father Abraham, if you send Lazarus back from the dead they will listen to him.

And Abraham said to him, if they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they listen even if one should come back from the dead.

In spite of this Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead almost like a last ditch effort to help the people move from the here-and-now to the hereafter – from this life to eternal life with God in heaven.

Jesus never gives up on us.

The raising up of Lazarus and Jesus' resurrection ultimately points to our own resurrection provided we live according to the Spirit that dwells in us.

But many at the time of Jesus were in the flesh and dead because of sin and the same is still unfortunately true today.

Many people put significantly more value on their physical well-being than they do on their spiritual health.

Lazarus represents humanity without Jesus, dead because sin. But Jesus wants to liberate us from the world, the flesh and the devil and raise us to new life in him.

Jesus came into the world – to liberate us from sin, heal us spiritually, and bring us to eternal life but we too easily attach ourselves to our own resourcefulness and the things of earth.

As one author put it, “Human thinking and human resources are simply not enough for many of our challenges. Thinking the solution lies in ourselves will cause us to wander away from God and likely fall into the pit of discouragement [and even despair] when our own resources fail to produce desired results.

Jesus did become perturbed and deeply troubled. He wept.

He loved Lazarus and the one who opened the eyes of the blind man did raise him up but, look around, Lazarus is no longer physically with us. Eventually he went on to die again!

Jesus also loves us and he alone can raise us up to the everlasting joy of heaven because he is the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in him, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in him will never die.

Look to the cross and see how much Jesus loves us so that we might no longer be blind to the deeper spiritual truths that surround us.

See the tears he shed so that we might have eternal joy. See the death he endured so that we might live forever.

Look to the cross and see just how much he loves us.