

## ROLLING STONE

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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May 28, 2022

According to the scripture in John 11:1-44, the story of Lazarus, Jesus was petitioned by Martha and Mary, two of His closest friends, to cure Lazarus from a life-threatening illness. However, Jesus didn't immediately answer their request; thus, when He arrived after four days, Lazarus was already dead and buried in a tomb. Nonetheless, Jesus chose to use this occasion to glorify God in front of the crowd. He asked them to take away the stone and remove Lazarus' grave clothes; then, Jesus called Lazarus to come out, and he came out. By this miracle, Jesus showed the people that there are blocks in hearing and responding to His voice. We too must clear our path of stones and bands that tie us, so that we can clearly hear the summons of Jesus.

### **The sickness and eventual death of Lazarus taught us many things:**

1. **Bad things do happen to good people as well.** There is a misconception that bad things only happen to bad people, and good things only happen to good people. Jesus dispelled this theory with the story of Lazarus, his sisters Mary and Martha who were His followers. This was also in the story of the man who was born blind (John 9:1-3).
2. **There was no question - Jesus loved Lazarus.** However, troubling times tend to make us question God's love for us. Sometimes, it is so easy for us to be tempted and accuse the Lord of loving us less.
3. **The death of Lazarus also taught us something about prayer, especially prayer that goes unanswered.** They've already seen how compassionate Jesus was – He healed the sick, and fulfilled his mission. However, we must remember that when Jesus doesn't answer our prayers immediately, He must have something greater in store for us.

4. **When we are faced with difficulties, we should not assume that God is judging or disciplining us.** He might be pruning us to be more fruitful (John 15:1-2). By changing our ways to become better, we would glorify the Lord.
5. **When we face difficult times, let us not conclude that God doesn't love us.** We must pay attention when God corrects us. Remember that God corrects everyone He loves.
6. **When we face trying times, and our prayers seem to fall on deaf ears, we should not give up on prayer and on God.** We must not doubt God. Let us always look at what God can do. When we act on our faith and belief, miracles happen (John 11:22).

### **Conclusion:**

Those who are not in Christ Jesus are spiritually dead. They are dead in trespasses and sins. However, Jesus came to save the sinners. His voice calls us to come out from the grave and begin a new life. While grave stones will stand in the way, we, as Christians are called upon to help each other be closer to Jesus (Matthew 28:19).

### **Reflection:**

1. What did you promise to do for Jesus? Were you able to commit to it?
2. What are the "stones" blocking you from doing them?

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