

Mike Lewis

Read John 10:24, 30, 38-42; 11:1 – 12:11; 20:31

Discussion will be based on the NRSVA.

Having discussed the various stories regarding the anointing of Jesus' feet previously we will not take time to go over this again today

Words of interest

Lazarus: derivation of Eleazer meaning "he whom God helps"

v 26: emphatic no - will ***never, never*** die

v 31 weep – mourn for the dead, weep bitterly

v 35 weep – general term for crying, shedding tears

v35 deeply moved – snort like a horse (lit), sternness, indignation, emotionally moved

Background

While at the Feast of the Dedication Jesus is confronted by "the Jews". Having not yet stated publicly that he is the Messiah, he now claims that he and the Father are one. This causes the Jews try to arrest him but he escapes to Trans-Jordan. While he is there he hears about Lazarus's illness

Questions for discussion

1. Why was Jesus "greatly disturbed in Spirit and deeply moved"? What does this show?
2. What do you make of Jesus' prayer (11:41b-42)?
3. Many of us will have been familiar with the story of Lazarus from childhood. Is it now too familiar to have an impact? How can we turn the clock back so that the story *does* have an impact?
4. What do make of the meeting of "the Jews" with Caiaphas and its outcome?
5. Jesus had previously raised many people from the dead (Lk 7: 11-16; 22). Why does the raising of Lazarus provoke such hostility?
6. John makes no mention of the effect on the crowd at the time (but see 12:9; 10-11). Why not?
7. John fills 4½% of his gospel recording the first 6 signs, but a huge chunk (7½ % - almost twice as much space (11:1 – 12:11) to describe just this *one* event and its aftermath. Why so much? What was John aiming to achieve? Did he succeed?