

Lazarus Set Free

Text: **"Loose him, and let him go"** John 11:44

We will ask seven questions.

I. WHO WAS LAZARUS?

1. One of God's elect
 2. One of God's children
 3. One of God's children dead and buried
 4. One of God's children still in bondage
 5. One of God's children raised from the dead
- Read our text again. Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go."

II. HOW WAS LAZARUS BOUND?

1. Bound in HAND — no works could he perform
 2. Bound in FOOT — couldn't walk
 3. Bound in MOUTH — not able to talk
 4. Bound in LEGS — no strength
 5. Bound in HEAD — couldn't even think
 6. Bound in BODY — no bowels of compassion; helpless
 7. Bound in EYES — no seeing afar off
- Jesus restored his life; He was concerned about his freedom. Read our text again: "Loose him, and let him go."

III. HOW WAS LAZARUS SET FREE?

1. Set free from DEATH by Christ
 2. Set free from GRAVECLOTHES by the disciples
- That's the way it is. Jesus our Lord gives a man life; then by teaching, preaching, he is introduced into the freedom of that life.

IV. WHAT LAZARUS DID NOT HAVE WHEN FIRST RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

1. Had life but no liberty
2. Had life but no fellowship
3. Had life but no power
4. Had grace but not freedom
5. Had Calvary and the Empty Tomb, but did not yet have Pentecost

V. WHAT DID LAZARUS DO WHEN SET FREE?

1. Found food
2. Found fellowship (John 12:1-2)

VI. WHAT HAPPENED TO LAZARUS WHEN SET FREE?

1. Was able to enjoy food and renewed fellowship with his Lord
2. Bore witness unto Christ

3. Sorely persecuted by chief priests (John 12:10-11)

VII. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS NARRATIVE?

We learn that in themselves God's elect people are —

1. Totally depraved
2. Dead and buried
3. Dead and stinking
4. Dead and in the dark
5. Dead and in bondage
6. Dead and shut up to help from above (Isa. 58:6)
7. Dead and in bondage until set free (Isa. 10:27)

Conclusion: LAZARUS IS A REPRESENTATIVE MAN. Note more carefully our passage, John chapter 11.

1. He was dead - vs. 14
 2. He was buried - vs. 38
 3. He was stinking - vs. 39
 4. But he was raised up from the dead - vs. 44
 5. But in God's time he was set free - vs. 44
 - a. Free, though he had been held by death
 - b. Free, though he had been bound in graveclothes
- Note 1 Tim. 5:6 and Eph. 2:1.

— Outline by **B. B. Caldwell**