

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

John 11:38-44

Sunday, January 31, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Commentators seem to agree that the Greek word for “deeply moved” or “greatly disturbed” includes the meaning that Jesus was angry at death. How might this teaching influence how you look at death?

I, too, can be angry at death without being angry at God. I can know that Jesus knows how I feel. I can know that Jesus felt that way knowing He was going to bring Lazarus

back to his family alive, even though Lazarus would die physically again someday. There are good reasons to be angry at death until Jesus returns and death as an enemy is finally defeated, as Paul wrote.

2. Why do you think Jesus waited four days before seeing Mary and Martha?

So everyone would know that Lazarus was really dead. So God could be glorified. So everyone could know that God the Father had sent Jesus. So everyone would know more about Jesus and His power. So He could show that He is the resurrection and the life in His very nature and character.

3. What is one result of our believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior according to this lesson? Can you think of other results?

We will see the glory of God in many places and ways.

We will have eternal life. We will have our sins forgiven. We will be cleansed from our sins. Our sins will not be remembered. We will be given the Holy Spirit to indwell us, guide us, and empower us.

4. What is one reason Jesus prayed aloud for everyone to hear Him pray?

So those listening might believe that God the Father had sent Him.

5. Why did Jesus tell the mourners to remove Lazarus' grave clothes rather than simply remove them miraculously himself when He could have easily done so?

To free Lazarus from the bondage of his grave clothes, the last bondages of death. So the mourners and family could see that Lazarus was a real raised person and not a ghost. So they could feel his hands and face, just as the disciples could feel the hands of Jesus after He rose from the dead.

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