

# ***Consequences of Belief and Unbelief***

***International Bible Lesson***

**John 11:38-44**

**Sunday, January 31, 2016**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“Then Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’” (John 11:40).*

Before Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead, He reminded Martha of something He had taught her earlier: “If you believe, you will see the glory of God.” If she had not believed, Jesus would still have raised Lazarus from the dead; however, Martha would not have seen the glory, truth, and power of God when Lazarus came forth alive. If someone does not believe, they will not see the glory of God. For example, most of the religious leaders did not believe in the God of their own Scriptures or the teachings of John the Baptist and Jesus. Therefore, when they heard reports that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead they responded according to their unbelief. They made plans to kill Jesus and “kill Lazarus as well, because on account of Lazarus many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him” (John 12:10-11). These leaders suppressed the truth and the meaning of Lazarus’ resurrection as a sign that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God. Their political plans and privileged ways would be upset if too many people began to believe in God and Jesus as revealed by their Scriptures. Later, the Apostle Paul described what can happen to people who refuse to believe in, glorify, or give thanks to God. Their thinking will become useless, their foolish hearts will become darkened, they will become fools (Romans 1:21-22). Such was the case of the religious leaders who refused to believe the evidence before them about God’s power in Jesus. Because of foolish, futile thinking and unbelief these leaders failed to see the glory of God.

© Copyright 2016 – LG Parkhurst Jr. All Rights Reserved

You may reprint or reproduce this *International Bible Lesson* for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Series Bible Lessons are available at [InternationalBibleLessons.org](http://InternationalBibleLessons.org).

## **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?
2. Why do you think Jesus waited four days before seeing Mary and Martha?
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?
4. What is one reason Jesus prayed aloud for everyone to hear Him pray?
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?