

Books of the Book Series

The Gospel of John Outline of Script for TV Production 3ABN Studios March 4-12, 2013

16. *Mary, Martha and Lazarus (John 11:1-57)*

16. Scene A. The Setting

Chapter 10

- Make yourself God 10:33
- Jesus withdraws 10:40

Scene set for the last straw, namely Lazarus

Disrupt worship	2
Healing on Sabbath	5
Disrupt worship	7
Blasphemy	8
Healing on Sabbath	9
Blasphemy	10

Raising of Lazarus signals “the hour”

16. Scene B. The Background

The Rabbis taught that the soul hovered near the body for three days, hoping for resuscitation.

After three days there was no longer any hope
(Jesus delayed for two days!)

By Jewish standards, this miracle was beyond dispute

- total of four days
- not disputed by hostile witnesses

16. Scene C. The Lazarus Passage (John 11:1-44)

11:4– antecedent of *autês* (“it” at the end)?

What glorifies Jesus? Glory of God or sickness?

Probably sickness

Another purpose of delay 15, 40

So disciples might believe

11:9-10– Note parallel of light and life

Cf. 1:4

Cf. 3:16-21

The theme is glory

Purpose of the miracle was glory to God

11:25-26–

Live and believe are governed by one article

Therefore, spiritual life and death are what is at issue

One may sleep like Lazarus, but never truly die

Story of Lazarus is an acted parable of 5:28-29

Note parallels: tombs, voice, come out, resurrection, life

16. Scene D. Result of Miracle (John 11:45-57)

Raising of Lazarus → hostility

Three results of Jesus' miracles in the Gospel

1) Increased faith (Mary)

2) Increased hostility (Sanhedrin, Judas)

3) More inadequate seekers (crowd at triumphal entry)

16. Scene E. The Personalities of Mary and Martha

We usually interpret this through the lens of Luke 10:38-42

Martha is task oriented, Mary is spiritual

John 11 offers a different perspective

John 11:20-22

Jesus lingers outside of town (uncertain of their reaction?)

Martha goes out to him, Mary does not

Is Mary a more fragile personality?

Hurt that Jesus delayed?

Uncertain how He feels about her?

Martha expresses her disappointment and also her faith in Him

John 11:23-24

Faith in the resurrection, but not clear about Jesus' role

Draws out a stirring self-affirmation from Him!

John 11:25-27

Perhaps best expression of faith in the whole gospel

(cf. 20:31) "Christ, the Son of God"

Martha represents mature faith and discipleship

Not so with Mary

John 11:28, 32

Same complaint but no affirmation of faith

Receives no revelation from Jesus

He draws no statement of faith from her

11:33

Jesus is deeply troubled at her lack of faith

11:39

Martha's faith has its limits in the present situation

When Lazarus is raised, Mary's flagging faith receives confirmation
She becomes bright example of discipleship (12:1-8)
Her faith was weak but is affirmed by God
But Martha believed without seeing
Martha represents second generation
Mary is more like Thomas (believes on account of seeing)