

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 120

Return to Judea to Raise Lazarus ~ Part 1

In our last post, we come to the end of **His Perean Ministry** as **He Concluded Teaching in Parables**. In this post, **Yeshua Returns to Judea to Raise Lazarus**.

Introduction

Yochanan records one of the most poignant events in all the **Gospel** accounts. While **Yeshua** is still in **Perea**, He learns that His friend **Lazarus** is seriously ill in **Bethany**. ¹ **Yeshua** wants to be with **Lazarus**. But because **Bethany** is so close to **Yerushalayim**, His **talmidim** counseled against returning there. What follows is a touching account of Yeshua meeting **Lazarus's** sisters, Mary and Martha, and being moved to tears. Yeshua arrives four days after **Lazarus** has died.

Yeshua Learns El'azar (Lazarus) Is Ill

Like a number of the incidents **Yochanan** reports, the events of this chapter presume knowledge of material found in the Synoptic Gospels. **Beit-Anyah** is mentioned in Mark 11:11–12, where **Yeshua** and His **talmidim** stayed after their triumphal entry into **Yerushalayim**. **Miryam** and **Marta** are introduced in Luke 10:38–42.

¹ There was a man who had fallen sick. His name was El'azar, and he came from Beit-Anyah, the village where Miryam and her sister Marta lived. ² (This Miryam, whose brother El'azar had become sick, is the one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent a message to Yeshua, "Lord, the man you love is sick." ⁴ On hearing it, He said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may receive glory through it."

In fact, **El'azar** did die (v. 14), but **Yeshua** raised him so that the illness did not "end" in death.

The Talmidim Fear Yeshua's Return So Close to Yerushalayim

⁵ Yeshua loved Marta and her sister and El'azar; ⁶ so when He heard he was sick, first He stayed where He was two more days; ⁷ then, after this, He said to the talmidim, "Let's go back to Y'hudah." ⁸ The talmidim replied, "Rabbi! Just a short while ago, the Judeans were out to stone you—and you want to go back there?" ⁹ Yeshua answered, "Aren't there twelve hours of daylight? If a person walks during daylight, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world."

Aren't there twelve hours of daylight? **Yeshua** refers to the average hours of sunlight in the summer in **Yerushalayim**. **The light of this world** refers to **Yeshua**. The light was a common Jewish metaphor for **God's** providence and guidance.

¹⁰ But if a person walks at night, he does stumble; because he has no light with him."

No light with him refers to **God's** power to guide a person's life through the **Ruach**. In this setting, He is referring to Himself as their guide.

¹¹ Yeshua said these things, and afterwards, He said to the talmidim, "Our friend El'azar has gone to sleep, but I am going in order to wake him up." ¹² The talmidim said to Him, "Lord if he has gone to sleep, he will get better." ¹³ Now Yeshua had used the phrase to speak about El'azar's death, but they thought he had been talking literally about sleep. ¹⁴ So Yeshua told them in plain

¹ This **Beit-Anyah** is located about a mile and one-half due east of **Yerushalayim**.

language, "El'azar has died. ¹⁵ And for your sake, I am glad that I wasn't there so that you may come to trust. But let's go to him." ¹⁶ Then T'oma (the name means "twin") said to his fellow talmidim, "Yes, we should go so that we can die with him!" ²

T'oma shows enthusiasm to follow **Yeshua**, a point that later becomes ironic (see Yochanan 20:27).

In our next, we conclude our exploration of **Yeshua's Return to Judea to Raise Lazarus**.

² Yochanan 11:1–16.