

# St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

August 2019

Dear Friend of St. Athanasius Academy,

## AUTHOR OF RESURRECTION AND LIFE – JESUS

### ON THE ROAD TO BETHANY– JOHN 10:39-40

*Not unto the death of Lazarus, but unto the glory of Jesus – John 11:4*

John 11: 39: "Take away the stone." Martha, said to Jesus, "Lord, by now He is giving off an odor. He has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God."

1. Why did Jesus not summon Lazarus from the grave from a distance or raise him before the stone was removed? In His guidance, it is good for people to see beyond miracles in hopes to grasp a deeper appreciation of His glory and grace. This is possible only by active participation – for such is the path of knowing Jesus to be our Father, from in the beginning.
3. Being there, no one asked, 'Did this happen', as with the Blind man. Here, such doubts were removed when Lazarus, walked from his tomb after 4 days, regardless the smell.
4. Thus by: (1) their coming to the tomb and removing the stone, (2) freeing Lazarus from his grave clothes, and (3) Martha noting the odor after four days, was overwhelming proofs Lazarus, once laid to rest, heard and responded to the Voice of our Father, "Come forth."
5. Jesus, our Father, knows the importance of our hearing His Voice, of witnessing Lazarus walk from his tomb. Though hearing of His miracles and restoring life, they now "saw" – with a new set of eyes – the instructive words of Jesus to Martha, ' I Am, Resurrection and Life. This continues to draw evermore people to Him; to believe and trust His promise, that whoever believes in Him, shall never die – John 11:25.
6. Consider John 11:23, where Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again. Martha's response to Him in John 11:24, "I know he will arise in the resurrection, at the last day." Such is the ignorance of the Pharisees – a resurrection in the future – that is being brought to an end.
7. Consider John 11:4, where as Son of Man, He told His disciples the purpose of Lazarus' illness was not unto death. Instead, "that the Son of God might be glorified. Here He spoke of Himself, being the Christ, while Martha's words reveals the ignorant teachings of the Temple – Did I not tell you, if you believed, you would see the glory of the One Who is God?
8. John 11:27, shows Martha to be a good example of one's "eyes" beginning to see life in Jesus, with the transformative Light of the Word – the Paradigm of His Words and Wisdom .

Sincerely

  
Paul – SAAOT

**September Invitation:** Study of Gospel of John 1, with the hope you will join me for a personal 15 minute discussion