

SEVEN SIGNS
#8: Lord of Eternity
June 3-5, 2006

¹Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰It is when people walk at night that they stumble, for they have no light." ¹¹After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ¹²His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. ¹⁴So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." ²⁸After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they

followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. ³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴"Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹"Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." *John 11:1-44 TNIV*

Introduction: What would it take to convince you that Jesus is Lord? Jesus once said that some people would not believe in him even if they saw a man raised from the dead. The seventh and final sign demonstrates that Jesus is the Lord of eternity.

I. The Questions

- A. Disciples: "And yet you are going back?"
- B. Jesus: "Are there not twelve hours of daylight?"
- C. Jesus to Martha: "Do you believe this?"
- D. Jesus: "Where have you laid him?"
- E. People: "Could he not have kept this man from dying?"
- F. Jesus: "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

II. The Answers

- A. Jesus: "Those who walk by daylight will not stumble."
- B. Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life."
- C. Martha: "I believe that you are the Messiah, Son of God."
- D. Jesus: "Take away the stone."

Conclusion: The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest sign that Jesus is Lord, a foresight of Jesus' own death and resurrection. It demonstrates to us that Jesus is the Lord of eternity who is our way to abundant and eternal life.