



YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL!

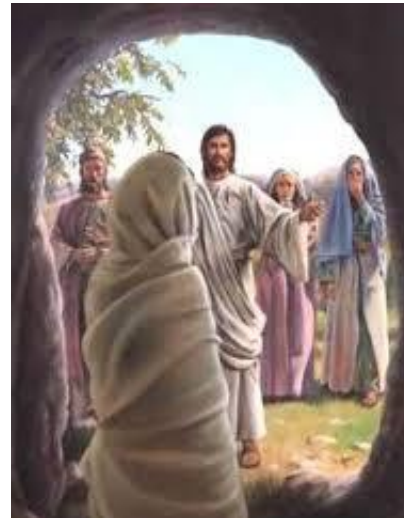
What God says about what you say

IN Favor video teaching series

#12. "JESUS SPEAKS TO THE DEAD"

John 11:38 Jesus, 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." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I 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." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The 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." ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

Calvin said Jesus advanced to the grave "as a champion who prepares for conflict." With a loud cry Jesus calls the dead man by name and commands him to come out of the grave. And Lazarus *obeys the authoritative word of Jesus*. The Greek text says "the dead one (one who had died and was now dead) came out." Neither grief, delay, misunderstanding, criticism, unbelief nor the grave can withstand the word of the Lord: "Jesus may delay, but he will come, and resurrection will follow" (Barrett). For two other resurrection stories involving Jesus, read Luke 7:11-17 (the widow's son) and Mark 5:22-43 with Luke 8:41-56 (the ruler's daughter).



Jesus summoned the dead man. He cried out in a loud voice ... not, of course, because a loud voice was needed to make the dead hear. Probably it was in part at least so that the crowd could know that this was no work of magic, but the very power of God. Wizards muttered their incantations and spells. Not so the Son of God. ^{Morris}

The voice of Jesus is potent and life-giving. Lazarus provided proof of Jesus' earlier words: "The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). ^{LABC}

THINK ABOUT IT ...



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