

**JOHN 11:28-39**  
July 21, 1988  
**ROME GEORGIA**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2014**

**JOHN 11:28-39**

“ . . . *The Master is come and is calling for you*”

- I. THERE IS A CALL FROM GOD TO THE "DEAD LIVING"
- II. THERE IS A CALL FROM GOD TO THE "LIVING DEAD"
  
- III. THERE IS A FUTURE CALL FROM GOD TO THE "DEAD WHO ARE LIVING"
- IV. THERE IS A FUTURE CALL FROM GOD TO THE "DEAD – DEAD"

**"If you have something you want done - give it to a busy man."**

God also seems to hold to this axiom as a general rule. **When he wants a great servant - HE USUALLY CALLS A BUSY MAN!**

**"MOSES** - was tending sheep at Horeb when God **called** him to a greater task.

**GIDIEON** - Was threshing wheat when the Lord **commissioned** him to smite the enemies of Israel.

**SAUL** - Was searching for his father's lost donkeys when he was met by Samuel and by Jehovah's command was **commissioned king** of Israel.

**DAVID** - Was **called** while he was caring for his father's sheep

and **ELISHA** - was **anointed prophet** while he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.

**AMOS** = was busy following the flock

**NEHIMIAH** - was serving in the palace

**PETER AND ANDREW** - were occupied with their fishing business

**MATTHEW** - was collecting taxes and

**JAMES AND JOHN** - were mending their nets *DB. 7/12/68*

**Prov. 22:29** Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown *men*. nkjv

**ORDINARILY - GOD CALLS BUSY MEN TO DO HIS WORK. BUT BUSY MEN ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES HE CALLS AS TODAY'S TEXT ATTESTS.**

READ THE TEXT – (JN.11: 28 – 38) *REVIEW*. 11:39 - 44 MESSAGE.

**LAZARUS WAS ONE OF THE FEW MEN WHO WERE CALLED WHO WHILE THEY WERE "AT REST".**

WE MARVEL AT THIS AS THOUGH IT WERE AN UNPRECEDENTED MIRACLE. FOR SOMEONE TO RAISE ANOTHER THAT HAD BEEN DEAD FOR FOUR DAYS WAS **UNHEARD OF - OR WAS IT.**

JN .11: 11 . . . He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.  
John 11:11. cf 14, ". . . Lazarus is dead."

So actually – THE APOSTLES **HAD HEARD OF IT!**

John 11:25-26

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

Joh 11:26 **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

**GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF CALLING THE DEAD UNTO LIFE!!!!!! ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE UNTIL THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH!**

### **I. THERE IS A CALL FROM GOD TO THE "DEAD LIVING"**

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, **WHO WERE DEAD** in trespasses and sins;

Col. 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses;**

GOD CALLS THOSE WHO ARE **DEAD IN SIN** AND OFFERS TO THEM "**ABUNDANT LIFE**"

"**I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.**" John. 10:10

JESUS **DESIRES FOR MEN TO HAVE LIFE - AND TO HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.**

JESUS **DESIRES US TO BE "DEAD TO SIN BUT ALIVE TO CHRIST.**

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as **those that are alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

### **II. A CALL FROM GOD TO THE "LIVING DEAD"**

UNFORTUNATELY MANY CHRISTIANS NEVER COME TO A FULL REALIZATION OF THIS. **THEY NEVER ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE BECAUSE THEY WALK IN THE WAYS OF DEATH.**

MANY "**SECOND GENERATION**" CHRISTIANS FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

THEY ARE SAVED - BUT NOT REALLY LIVING THE LIFE.

**THEY HAVE A NAME THAT THEY ARE ALIVE - - -**

Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the **church** in **Sardis** write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, AND ART DEAD.**

ROMANS 14:7 - 12

**Rom. 14:7** For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**ROMANS 13:11 - 14.** - Paul is speaking to the living, breathing, believers in Rome. (THE "LIVING DEAD" )

**Romans 13:11** And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**: for now is our salvation **nearer than when we believed**.

WE WHO HAVE RECEIVED "THE CALL OF SALVATION" NEED TO AWAKE TO "THE CALL OF SERVICE" TIME IS GETTING SHORT. WE HAVE WORK TO DO!,

notice **John 11:39**.

**John 11:39** Jesus said, **Take ye away the stone**. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.

**GOD USED THE LIVING TO ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH HE WOULD DO FOR THE DEAD,**  
ALL OF CREATION IS AT HIS BECK AND CALL - **YET HE CHOOSES TO USE MEN TO DO THE WORK!**

IN THE VIOLENT STORM ON THE SEA IN **MARK 4:39** JESUS . . . :

**Mark 4:39** "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still**. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

**Mark 4:41** And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, **What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

YET, ON **ANOTHER OCCASION** IT WAS NECESSARY FOR **MOSES** TO **STRETCH FORTH HIS ARMS** IN ORDER FOR THE **RED SEA** TO PART.

**PAUL** AND **SILAS** PRAYED AND **SANG HYMS** IN THE PHILIPPIAN JAIL AND THERE WAS A VIOLENT **EARTHQUAKE** WHICH BROKE LOOSE THE CHAINS THAT BOUND THEM.

BUT **ON ANOTHER OCCASION** IT WAS NECESSARY FOR AN **ENTIRE NATION** TO **MARCH SILENTLY** AROUND THE WALLS OF **JERICHO** IN OBEDIANCE TO GOD IN ORDER FOR THE WALLS OF THE CITY TO FALL.

IN THE CASE OF **ELIJAH** - **GOD SENT THE RAVENS** OF THE AIR TO FEED HIM (*on ANOTHER OCCASION, A **WIDOW** FED HIM.*)

YET ON **PETER'S** FRUITLESS FISHING EXPEDITION, JESUS TOLD **PETER TO PUT DOWN HIS NET**. **WHY DIDN'T JESUS JUST TELL THE FISH TO JUMP INTO THE BOAT?** (and on a later occasion, it was **Peter** who would feed **widows Acts 6.**)

JN .11:39

JESUS TOLD THESE FOLKS TO ROLL AWAY THE STONE. HE DOESN'T DO FOR US WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING FOR OURSELVES! MIRACLES ABOUND, BUT THEY USUSALLY OCCUR WHEN OUR STRENGTH HAS BEEN EXPENDED IN OBEDIENCE TO THE LORDS COMMMANDS!

**Those who are helpless - Christ helps. But those who can be helpful, Christ expects them to be helpful.**

### III. THERE IS A FUTURE CALL FROM GOD TO THE “DEAD WHO ARE LIVING”

I Thessalonians. 4

1Th 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning **those who have fallen asleep**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if **we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus**. 15 For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord**, that we who are **alive *and* remain** until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede **those who are asleep**.

16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** 17 Then **we who are alive and remain** shall be caught up together **with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore **comfort one another with these words**.

On a more fearful note:

### IV. THERE IS A FUTURE CALL FROM GOD TO THE ” DEAD – DEAD”

REV. 20:11-15

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away**. And there was found no place for them.

12 **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God**, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. **And the dead were judged** according to their works, by the **things which were written in the books**.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the **dead** who were in it, and **Death** and **Hades** delivered up the **dead** who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works 14 Then **Death** and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.