

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Resuscitation Isn't Resurrection**    Monday of Holy Week    April 15, 2019    Is 42:1-7;  
**Jn 12:1-11**    (Faith is about trust that when we inevitably enter into death we will be reborn in glory in Jesus Christ.)

Now this story found in John's Gospel is a little difficult to square with the story found in Luke in which, again, a woman anoints Jesus, but it isn't Mary the sister of Martha, it's another unnamed woman. So **John apparently has re-told this story with some of his familiar characters, and why he did this, I do not know.**

But what is interesting is the figure of Lazarus. You will recall **Lazarus was a man who died and Jesus brought him back to life, but this being brought back to life is not resurrection.** Now according to this gospel, Lazarus became a magnet that drew people to Jesus. Unfortunately, this is drawing people for the wrong reason. **Jesus is not offering to bring people back to life in this world.** Whatever happened there with Lazarus is something unique, and in its details lost to us, but it is not resurrection as Jesus spoke of it when he said the Son of Man will rise from the dead. That's something entirely different, because when Jesus rose from the dead as the prototype of all of our lives **when we rise from the dead, it will be an entirely different kind of existence.** It won't be just returning to this world. Who would want to do that? Only people who haven't thought very long about it.

So this is a very interesting story because it shows that **some of the people following Jesus were following him, but for the wrong reason.** And that explains something of the way in which his followers melted away so quickly when the threat of death really approached. So if we seek Jesus simply as a source of health or well-being in this world, St. Paul points this out, then we are the greatest of fools. Yes, God may afford us health and well-being in this world, and that will be very lovely, but that is not what faith is about. **Faith is about trust that when we inevitably enter into death we will be reborn in glory in Jesus Christ.**