

The Greatest Victory

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We love to talk about the greatest everything. We have a category of greatness for everything you can imagine.

In Sports:

- The greatest baseball player
- The greatest basketball player
- The greatest football player (QB, RB, PR, LB)
- The greatest hockey player
- The greatest boxer

In Music:

- The greatest female singer
- The greatest male singer
- The great concert pianist
- The greatest guitar player

In Acting:

- The greatest actor
- The greatest actress
- The greatest movie or play

We will argue about these things for hours. Billions are spent on betting on who will be the greatest in any event, who will be the victor. We do not like losers. We love winners, especially if the winner is our winner.

The higher the stakes the greater and sweeter is the victory.

If Jesus could raise a man after being dead four days, three days dead was doable.

John 11:38-44,

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 believe, you will 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."

Now this is merely a sample of what Jesus will do with each of us:

John 5:28-29

28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

The proof that Jesus will do this is His own resurrection:

Acts 17:24-31 (Observing the idols of Athens and seeing one to the Unknown God, Paul says) 22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. **He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**"

The message today is simple.

When Lazarus was raised a great victory was won.

When Jesus was raised a great victory was won.

When you are raised.....?? How do you finish this sentence?

Your resurrection will be a great celebration if you are ready.

- 1) Believe in the Lord Jesus, the one who raises the dead and is raised from the dead.
- 2) Repent of your sins, of living your lives for yourselves, putting Jesus first.
- 3) Confess the name of Jesus before men so that He will confess your name before the Father in heaven.
- 4) Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, allowing God to wash away your sins, and to give you His Holy Spirit to live inside of you proving you belong to Him.

Today could be the day of greatest victory for you!