

Lesson II.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

April 12, 1908

John 11 : 32-44. Study John 11 : 1-57—Memory Verses, 43, 44.

Golden Text—I am the resurrection, and the life.—John 11 : 25.

32 Then when Mar'y was come where Je'sus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Je'sus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

34 And said, Where have ye laid him ? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Je'sus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him !

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died ?

38 Je'sus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Je'sus said, Take ye away the stone. Mar'tha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh : for he hath been *dead* four days.

40 Je'sus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God ?

41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Je'sus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always : but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Laz'arus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes : and his face was bound about with a napkin. Je'sus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In the little village of Bethany, near Jerusalem, there lived three of Jesus' dearest earthly friends—Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. One day Lazarus fell very ill, and the sisters sent hastily to Jesus, asking Him to come. Jesus loved these friends of His ; yet, when He heard the message, He remained in the place where He was for two days longer, before He set out for Bethany. And while He waited, Lazarus died and his body was laid away in the grave. Now, in that country, were Jesus lived, graves were not dug in the ground, but were hewn out of solid rock, or made in a cave in the side of a hill ; and the opening was closed by a large stone rolled up against it.

When the sisters had returned home after the funeral of their brother, with many of their friends who had come to comfort them in their trouble, they heard that Jesus was

near at hand. Martha immediately ran to meet Him, leaving Mary in the house, and fell at Jesus' feet, crying, " Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died ".

Jesus comforted her, and then He sent for Mary, and when she came, she said the very same words that Martha had said. When Jesus saw her weeping, and her friends weeping with her, He was filled with grief and wept also, and asked, " Where have you laid him ? " And the Jews were astonished at His grief, and said, " How He must have loved Lazarus ! "

Then they brought Him to the grave, a cave, with a stone rolled against the opening ; and Jesus said, " Take away the stone ". But Martha tried to prevent Him, because she could not bear to have any one look upon the body of her brother, for he had been dead four days. But Jesus turned to her, saying,