

The answer shows how eager He was to win over unbelievers. "Thou hearest Me always"; he who can say this, is rich beyond all that earth can give.

(4) "*Lazarus, come forth*". Why, said "with a loud voice?" So that all might hear, and therefore know who had wrought the miracle. They were simple words: but how wondrous their effect! Compare Gen. 1: 3; Gen. 2: 7. Jesus has God's

power, because He is God (John 20: 31).

(5) "*Loose him, and let him go.*" Everyone would see that Lazarus, who had been dead four days (v. 39), was once more alive. There could be no doubt of the fact.

Talk over the effect of the miracle upon the onlookers: (a) some believed, (b) others carried the story to His enemies, and doubtless sympathized with these in seeking His death (v. 53).

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON I.]

Bethany, the home of Lazarus, now called after him, since the 4th century A. D., el Azeriyeh, that is, "Lazarus' Village", is a small village built of stone, on the southeast slope of the Mount of Olives, a little less than two miles from Jerusalem, on the road to Jericho. It is surrounded by fig gardens, and olives and pomegranates also grow in the neighborhood. In the centre of the village rises a tall square tower, which belonged to the Convent of St. Lazarus, founded in A. D. 1147. There is a vault below, which has been formed into a tiny rock-cut chapel. This is shown as the tomb of Lazarus, and

there was a church at this point in the 4th century, but the ancient rock-cut tombs are farther to the east, beside the road. The name Bethany means perhaps, "House of Dates", and likely at one time date palms grew in the neighborhood. These are not, however, found there now. Travelers have pointed out to them the very house in which Lazarus is said to have lived with his sisters Mary and Martha and also the reputed house of Simon the Leper, and are told where the sisters went to meet Jesus on his approach. But not very much confidence can be placed in these identifications.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

From the Library

"Lazarus", said Jesus in full, "this is the first time I have visited Bethany, and that thou hast not come to meet Me. It is not Bethany without thee; I wait and weary for My friend; I have not many friends, and I cannot spare thee, Lazarus. Thou hast gone on a long journey and hast seen strange sights; but thou hast not gone so far but My voice will reach thee, and there will be no sight so welcome as thy face. His is a strong hand which holds thee, and no man dare disobey his word; but the key of Death's stronghold is at My girdle, and I am his Lord. Before I go to My agony and the cross, I must see thee, Lazarus. It is thy Friend who calls thee—Lazarus, come forth!" And death had no power to prevent the meeting of Jesus and His friend.—Iaŋ Maclaren.

Some Test Questions

1. Where was Jesus when He heard of Lazarus' death? How long did He delay going to Bethany?
2. Which of the sisters met Him first? What great assurance did He give to her?
3. What did Mary say to Him when she met Him?
4. How was Jesus affected by the sight of her grief?
5. What proof of His sympathy with human sorrow did He give?
6. What question did the Jews ask concerning Jesus?
7. In what sort of grave had Lazarus been laid? What did Jesus bid the onlookers do?
8. What objection did Martha offer? What was Jesus' reply?
9. Why did He publicly give thanks to God?
10. What were His words to Lazarus, and what effect had they?
11. What action did the Pharisees and