

Lazarus 2023

The Gospel story of Lazarus is one of real confusion.

The story of the pilgrimage of life is one of confusion

Lazarus is sick. But there is no panicked reaction from Christ

There is faith in eternal resurrection, yet Jesus is in great distress.

Jesus calls Lazarus back from the dead, and back into the challenge of the struggle.

Then there is the drama of the situation. The removal of the stone blocking the tomb. The dead man emerging with bands of cloth around hands feet and face.

Over the last two thousand years all too easy to confuse the nature of Jesus Christ.

Miracles turning our Lord and saviour into a magician

Revelation limited to the spectacular events and not what can more deeply be seen.

Superficial observation of infinite events

We look and look again

Lazarus rises from the dead but, dies again

When Christ rose from the dead it was an eternal act transforming even the extended life of Lazarus

Jesus is the son of God whose nature bring into existence all things

And calls all back from the grave all people

Death is not the end, as Martha knew, it is a step in the pilgrimage. A movement toward the last days and the resurrection.

Perhaps a good way to access something of the riches of this gospel experience

It to be as simple as the love that was shared

Then to live with such trust and love

With a sigh that comes straight from the heart

I think of my sister, I think of my mother, my father

I miss their loving presence

They are beyond the grave

Would I call them back?

My sister perhaps

But I don't know

What I am certain of however is that I shall see them again

And as Christ Jesus returned Lazarus to his loving sisters

So this same loving Christ Jesus shall return those I have love back to me

Be not afraid it is accomplished

Take up your cross

Then follow.