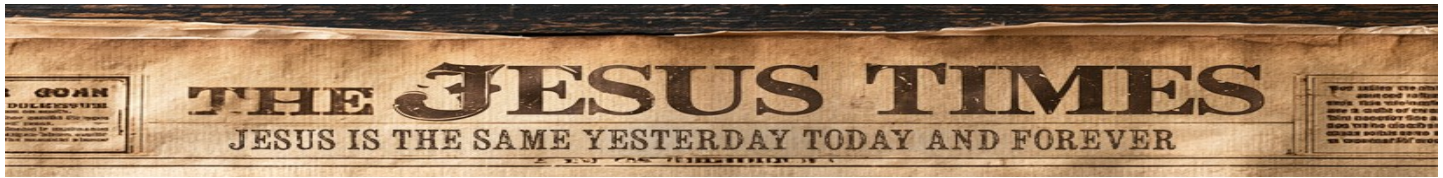


Special Edition—Home Delivery
Supplement to the Weeping Wonder study based on John 11



John 11:43-44 “When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 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.”

The act of removing Lazarus' grave clothes carries profound symbolic meaning regarding transformation in the lives of believers. Here are some lessons we can learn from this moment in the life of Jesus.

1. Shedding the Old Self

Lazarus' grave clothes represent the old life—symbolizing sin, death, and the burdens that weigh us down. Just as

Lazarus was bound in these clothes, believers often carry the weight of past mistakes, fears, or unhealthy identities.

The act of removing these clothes signifies the necessity for believers to shed their old selves. In Christ, we are called to leave behind our former ways and embrace a new identity rooted in grace and freedom.

2. Embracing New Life

Lazarus' emergence from the tomb signifies resurrection, paralleling the spiritual rebirth that believers experience through faith in Christ. Just as Lazarus was raised to life, believers are spiritually resurrected to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

By taking off the grave clothes, Lazarus is no longer defined by death but by life. Believers are invited to step into their new identity as children of God, free from the chains of sin and death.

3. Community Involvement

The instruction to others to remove Lazarus' grave clothes highlights the importance of community in the transformation process. Believers are often supported by fellow Christians who help them shed old habits and embrace their new identity.

This communal aspect emphasizes that transformation is not a solitary journey; it involves encouragement, accountability, and support from others in the faith community.

4. Call to Action

The act of removing the grave clothes illustrates that transformation requires action. Believers must actively engage in their spiritual growth—through prayer, reading Scripture, and participating in community—to fully experience this transformation.

Transformation is a continuous journey. Just as Lazarus may have needed help to fully step into his new life, believers are reminded that they are on a path of ongoing growth and renewal.

The act of removing Lazarus' grave clothes serves as a powerful metaphor for the transformative journey of believers. It symbolizes the shedding of old identities, the embrace of new life in Christ, and the communal support necessary for authentic transformation. This narrative encourages believers to actively participate in their spiritual journeys, continually shedding what hinders them from fully living out their new identity in Christ.