

“Remove The Stone”

Introduction. The resurrection of Lazarus has always been one of the most intriguing of the Lord’s miracles. Within the account of this miracle in John 11:1-46, Jesus made the statement, “Take ye the stone” in vs. 39. When Lazarus arose, Jesus said, “Loose him, and let him go” in vs. 44.

Why did Jesus ask them to remove the stone? He could have removed it by physical power or the power of His word. He could have raised Lazarus without moving the stone. The power that raised Lazarus could have loosed Lazarus. Jesus only required them to do what they could. God never does what man can do for himself, but He always does what man cannot do.

I. *God Never Does What Man Can Do For Himself*

- A. The ark (Genesis 6:22).
- B. The exodus (Exodus 3:7-10; 14:21).
- C. The serpents (Numbers 21:8-9).
- D. Naaman (2 Kings 5:10).
- E. The blind man (John 9:7).

II. *God Always Does What Man Cannot Do*

- A. God furnished the sacrifice (Hebrews 10:4; 9:22-26; Romans 5:6).
- B. God revealed the plan (Jeremiah 10:23; Galatians 1:11; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Titus 3:5).
- C. God freely granted us salvation (Romans 3:24; 1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- D. God enrolled us in heaven (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15).
- E. God prepared a home for us (Hebrews 11:16).

III. *Some Stones We Must Remove*

- A. Some stones for the sinner.
 - 1. The stone of unbelief (John 8:24; Acts 16:31).
 - 2. The stone of impenitence (Romans 2:5; Acts 17:30-31).
 - 3. The stone of denial (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10).
 - 4. The stone of false doctrine (Jeremiah 23:16; 29:8; 2 Timothy 4:3-4).
 - 5. The stone of disobedience (Ephesians 5:6; Romans 6:17-18).
- B. Some stones for the child of God.
 - 1. The stone of indifference (Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:12; Ecclesiastes 9:10).
 - 2. The stone of ignorance (2 Peter 3:18; 2 Timothy 2:15).
 - 3. The stone of worldliness (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4).

4. The stone of carnality (Colossians 3:5-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-10).
5. The stone of stinginess (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Conclusion. It is interesting to note that some expect God to do it all. They wait for a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to completely take care of man's salvation. Although God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9), His salvation is conditional (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9; Revelation 22:14). Man must act for himself. Do you need to remove a stone?