

Stop Blocking Your Miracle

John 11:38-46

Introduction

In this passage Jesus has come to the tomb of Lazarus at the beckoning of Martha and Mary. In John 11:39, Jesus commands that the stone blocking the tomb be moved. Yet Martha tells Jesus that Lazarus has been dead four days. She goes on to tell Jesus that because he's been dead for that period of time, there would be a stench. Martha believed that what Jesus was asking wasn't practical. She was being realistic by telling Jesus why what he asked couldn't work. However, Martha was actually blocking the miracle. Jesus answered her in verse 40 by saying, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

God's people want to see God at work in their lives. The question is are God's people willing to get out of the way so God can do what He is willing and able to do? Unbelief blocks the miraculous and supernatural from taking place. Just like Jesus wouldn't perform the miracle until Martha believed, God will not act in a miraculous way on our behalf if we choose to not have faith in Him.

Believing was not some intangible, unspecific idea; however belief for Martha involved her allowing the stone to be *moved despite her practical concerns*. She had to act first on what God had revealed in order to see what Jesus planned to do. God plans to do a lot of things for us that He is held back from doing because of our refusal to act on what we say we believe.

Jesus prays that God would answer His prayer. We can take comfort in knowing that Jesus is always interceding on our behalf. In verses 41 and 42, Jesus prays for that which Martha desires; He prayed that she would see the glory of God. When we operate in belief through our obedience, we position ourselves to allow God to move supernaturally on our behalf, therefore, allowing us to see His glory on display.

Stop blocking your miracle because of your unwillingness to believe or your unwillingness to **act** on your beliefs.

Getting Started

1. Do you believe that God still works today in supernatural and miraculous ways? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever seen God work in your life in a miraculous way? Share with your group.

Let's Get Personal

1. Martha had to believe that God could do the supernatural in her very current circumstances. What current circumstance may be causing you concern, difficulty or pain?
2. Where might you be wrestling with operating according to human understanding, reason, and logic instead of looking for what God may be willing and able to do in the supernatural on your behalf?
3. Is there any stone you are refusing to move? What specific act of obedience have you not been willing to do?
4. How does your understanding of the intercession of Christ help you in your own prayer life?

Take the Next Step

1. Even if you don't understand how God can accomplish the impossible, what specific action can you take this week to walk in obedience?
2. Because Martha believed then obeyed Jesus' commands, Lazarus was raised and many Jews believed. Others were blessed because of Martha's belief and action. How could others in your circles of influence be blessed if God does a miracle for you?
3. Martha's desires, matched up with the plan of God to exhibit His glory in her life. Whenever our prayers and desires match the intercession of Jesus for us, the miraculous can occur. With this in mind, how will this affect your prayers this week?
4. Take time to read Romans 8:26-27, 34 and Hebrews 7:25 (in your group time or by yourself) for additional reading on the beauty and blessing of Christ's intercession on our behalf.

Renew Your Mind

"Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" John 11:40

