**Why?**

When hard times come, we inevitably ask, “Why?” In the death and raising of Lazarus the Lord reveals several answers to that question.

**1. Why did Lazarus become sick and die?**

A. For the *glory* of God’s Son (v. 4)

B. For the *good* of God’s children (v. 15)

Romans 8:28

**2. Why did Jesus raise Lazarus?** (vv. 25-26)

A. As an evidence of *eternal life*

B. As a foretaste of *future resurrection*

**3. Why did Jesus weep?** (vv. 33-36, 38)

A. He *sympathizes* with our sorrows

Hebrews 4:14-16

B. He *feels* our sorrows as His own

Isaiah 53:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:26

**Application**

A. God will transform your *groaning* into *gold*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

B. Trust your *Father’s love*

when you cannot see *His plan*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. Based on a few Old Testament texts, some have questioned whether the dead are conscious before the resurrection. Old Testament authors sometimes express doubts about the state of the dead because God did not reveal as much about that until Jesus came. The most notable is Ecclesiastes 3:18-21; 9:2-6. In the pessimism of this OT book, God shows us the futile conclusions human philosophy and observation apart from divine revelation. The positive message of Ecclesiastes is an exhortation to enjoy the good things God gives us and to trust in Him in the midst of life’s many perplexities and uncertainties.

3. A number of NT passages teach the conscious existence of our souls after death and before the resurrection (Luke 16:19-31—a different Lazarus; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:21-24; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 6:9-11).

When the Bible refers to death as sleep, it is the body that sleeps until it is awakened at the resurrection. The soul does not fall into an unconscious sleep.