



Raising Lazarus

John 11:3-44

Mumsy returned from her morning walk and stood just outside the door of the Bonzai's beachside hut. From inside the door, she could hear a man with a thick Scottish accent calling for her. "Where is she? Where is me wee, beautiful bride?" Popsy called.

Mumsy smiled and walked through the door of the hut. "Right here, Angus!"

Popsy grinned and scooped her up into his arms. "Ah, there you are, you sweet thing! Let me give you a great, big bear hug!"

"No more hugs for you! Yesterday, you squeezed me so hard that my boots popped off!" Mumsy said with a laugh, pretending to be upset.

"Aye, that was my 'Anaconda Squeeze!'" Popsy replied, proud of his special brand of hugs.

"Well, I am not an anaconda, I am your wife," she said as Popsy put her down.

"Ah, Mabel, I can't help it. I missed you so."

Mumsy nodded. "It is lovely to be back together again as a family."

"Aye, family is important." He agreed.

"Yes," Mumsy continued as she linked arms with Popsy and walked back out into the bright sunlight and hot sand. "And I'm so proud of little Boo Boo Kitty and Monkey Toes."

Popsy stopped and looked at her. "Who?" He asked, very confused.

"Chauncey and Algernon!"

Popsy continued walking. "Oh, I thought you were talkin' about that 800 Pound Gorilla."

"No, I meant our sons. They've grown up to be powerful men of God."

"Well, that Algie is a bit of a skinny thing." Popsy said. "Every time I wrestle him I'm afraid I'm gonna snap him in half like a twig!"

"Popsy! I'm not talking about their size. I'm talking about their character. Both of our sons are serving Lord Jesus with all of their hearts, souls and minds!"

Popsy puffed out his chest with pride. "Aye, Mumsy, that's 'cuz we raised 'em right! Taught 'em to be godly men and follow the Lord!"

Mumsy nodded, ignoring his bragging. "That's true. And God has shown them how important it is to love others like Jesus loves them."

"Aye! And it's also important to respect His power! Jesus is the Lord over all things! Even death! Like that time He gave old Lazarus a wake up call! Remember that one?"

"Yes!" Mumsy said with a clap of her hands. "That's a wonderful story! Why don't we read it right now? I always have my Bible in my bag." She said as she began to look among the knitting needles, yarn, and parrot food in her bag for her Bible. As she searched, Popsy guided her to a seat on a fallen log lying on the edge of the beach near the rainforest.

"Oh hear it is! Now let me see, it's in the book of John." She said as she settled onto the log and flipped through the worn pages of her Bible.

"Aye, that's when Jesus' poor friend Lazarus passed awee." He agreed as he looked over her shoulder at the Bible.

"He did what?" She asked, confused.

"He passed awee...he kacked the booket...he died!" Popsy repeated.

"Oh! He passed *away*! Yes, I remember now, Lazarus had been quite ill. In fact his sisters, Mary and Martha had sent a message asking Jesus to come right away. But when Jesus heard about it, He said a very curious thing. He said to His disciples, 'This sickness would not end in death.'"

"Aye!" Popsy agreed. "He said it was for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified!"

"What do you suppose Jesus meant by that?" Mumsy asked thoughtfully.

Popsy explained. "Well, glorify Jesus means to honor Him with praise, so I think He's gonna do a miracle!"

"A miracle!" She agreed.

"A miracle!" Popsy repeated with a nod. "Now when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already passed awee, and his poor little sisters were crying their little eyes out. When Jesus met up with Martha, He told her, 'your brother's gonna rise up again!'"

Mumsy agreed and continued with the story. "Yes and Martha said, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Martha believed what the Scriptures promised – that those who believe in the Lord will go to Heaven!"

"Aye," Popsy said as he prepared to read the next part of the story over her shoulder. "But Jesus did an amazing thing. We read in John 11:25 and 26 that Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

"I do! I believe it, Popsy!" Mumsy cried out as she jumped up from her seat.

"You believe it, because it's true, Mumsy! Jesus has resurrection power!"

"Resurrection is an awfully big word, Popsy." She said as she settled back down next to him on the log. She smoothed the pages of her Bible that had been wrinkled during her leap into the air.

"Aye, well, we serve an awfully big Lord! But resurrection simply means, to bring back to life – to be raised from the dead."

"Popsy, isn't it amazing that Jesus has the power to bring people back to life?"

Popsy nodded in agreement. "Just think, who created life in the first place? We know that God did. And we know that He gave Jesus all power to rule over Heaven and earth."

"So," Mumsy said, "It makes sense that Jesus has all power over life and death!"

"Aye, and I can prove it straight from the word of God! Look what happens next! There was a giant stone in front of the tomb's entrance. Jesus told them to take away the stone. Well, they moved the stone and Jesus thanked the Father for hearing Him.

"Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' And Lazarus obeyed Lord Jesus and came right out – he was alive! It was a miracle!" Mumsy smiled as she slowly closed her Bible.

"Well, you know what Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God!'" Popsy said.

Mumsy stood up and looked out over the bright, blue ocean, the sunlight glinting brightly off of the waves. "Well, in that story, I see His glory and His resurrection power! It's just incredible! Even brighter than the sun shining on that water!"

Popsy stood up with her. "Aye! And you know what our dear sons say: 'It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!'"

Mumsy smiled as the two began to stroll down the beach. "So true! It is amazing what God can do! He can even bring people back to life! That's power! Let's finish our walk and then share the story of Jesus and Lazarus with our boys."