

CHRIST'S GREATEST MIRACLE

Jesus Christ's greatest miracle was the resurrection of Lazarus.

Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, had been dead for four days. In the presence of His disciples and a great crowd of people, Jesus raised him up, thereby revealing

- God's **desire to save all mankind** from death;
- His **compassion, mercy and love**; and
- His **power over life and death**.



THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS RECEIVED MIXED REACTIONS.



- *"Many of the Jews therefore, who...had seen what He did, believed in Him..."*

—John 11:45

The people were overjoyed to see that Lazarus had been raised from the dead. The next day, as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, they greeted Him triumphantly, shouting: "Hosanna! King of the Jews! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

- *"...but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, 'What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let Him go on thus, every one will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.' But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all; you do not understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish.' ...So from that day on they took counsel how to put Him to death."*

—John 11:26-50,53

Having decided to kill Jesus, the leaders of the people sought an opportunity to have Him arrested. Judas, one of Jesus' apostles, provided the opportunity: "Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said 'What will you give me if I deliver Him to you?' And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray Him."

—Matthew 26:14-16