

John 11:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

Analysis

Jesus abandons metaphor and speaks plainly: 'Lazarus is dead.' His directness accommodates the disciples' understanding, demonstrating pastoral wisdom. Christ adjusts His communication to His audience's capacity without compromising truth. The blunt announcement prepares them for what they will witness, preventing the shock of discovering Lazarus' death upon arrival. This models clear communication in spiritual leadership.

Historical Context

Rabbinical teaching often used parables and metaphors, but effective teachers knew when plain speech was necessary. Jesus demonstrates flexibility in pedagogical method.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. When is metaphorical language appropriate in teaching, and when is plain speech necessary?

2. How does Jesus' adjustment to the disciples' understanding demonstrate pastoral wisdom?
3. In what ways can we communicate spiritual truth more clearly to those we teach?

Interlinear Text

τότε	οὖν	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	παρρησίᾳ	Λάζαρος
Then	G3767	said	unto them	G3588	Jesus	plainly	Lazarus
G5119		G2036	G846		G2424	G3954	G2976

ἀπέθανεν
is dead
G599

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