

“Wish You Were Here”

John 11:1-44

We read of the death and resurrection of Lazarus. This story is more than just a story of physical death and rising again. The idea of zombie Lazarus has been run dry by movies and TV series. I feel that this story is deeper than that. For those of us who have hope and trust in the resurrection, we know that our resurrection bodies will be more than flesh and more than what we experience in life. I believe this passage shows Jesus' power over spiritual death. That through His perfect sacrifice, we too have the opportunity to experience the resurrection life in our resurrection bodies. This is but the start of the explaining Jesus' actual ministry and a demonstration of His true power over death, which is the permanent separation from God. This is a beautiful manifestation of Jesus' love and how His love, though the Father, can conquer all.

Point 1: Our sickness will not end in death, but can bring glory through Jesus, John 11:4

- A. Sickness is not only physical, but spiritual
- B. Through the Son of God, it can bring glory
- C. It does not need to end in spiritual death

Point 2: God's light and power is not dependent on our time, John 11:6-15

- A. Those who walk in His light will not stumble
- B. He speaks to us, though we may not understand His words
- C. When He speaks plainly, He is doing so, so that we may believe

Point 3: Jesus is the resurrection for those who believe, John 11: 21-27

- A. Though we may trust, it is hard to see Jesus in times of trouble
- B. Jesus is the resurrection
- C. Believe in Him as Christ in this world

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Point 4: The Father and the Son know us, and love us unconditionally, John 11:32-37

- A. When Jesus sees us in pain and suffering, He is deeply moved
- B. He will constantly ask us where we bury our sin
- C. Jesus weeps for us, for many reasons
- D. For He loves us personally, physical death and what it brings to those around the deceased, the frailty of life and the spiritual separation from God, anger in unbelief

Point 5: Through the power of Jesus, our sins can leave no mark on us, John 11:38-40

- A. Jesus is deeply moved and desires us to take Him to where we hide our sins
- B. He desires us to remove the things that we hide behind
- C. Even though we object and feel unworthy, Jesus's truth can be revealed

Point 6: Jesus is the way, the only way to come to resurrection from our deaths, John: 11:41-44

- A. Jesus calls US to remove the stone from our graves
- B. Through Jesus, the conquering of death leads to belief in the Father
- C. When Jesus speaks to us, we must listen
- D. Jesus has the power to place us in our heavenly bodies

Today's Scripture - John 1:1-44

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the

world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. ¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." ³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do

you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

Questions for Reflection

1. Why do you think Jesus stayed for 2 days prior to going to His friends in need?
2. What can we determine about the disciple's response to Jesus returning to Judea?
3. How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus clearly explained that Lazarus was dead?
4. How do Martha's and Mary's time with Jesus differ? How are they similar?
5. Why do we feel Jesus wept? What does it mean for me?
6. What are some things that I have in my life that I have buried from God?
7. How can I better trust that He is the resurrection and can overcome these sins?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REOPENING HILLCREST CHURCH

The date has been set to begin meeting in person on Good Friday at 6:30pm and Easter Sunday at 10:30am. We will have a hybrid service so we will continue broadcasting on zoom. For those who attend in person we will be following all the covid protocols:

- Wear a mask
- Social distance
- Stay home if you feel sick

- No food or drinks will be served
- We have prepackaged communion cups-covid friendly
- Hand sanitizers are throughout the building
- Let common sense prevail!

MARCH 21ST

Dr. Bruce will begin his Easter teaching series, which culminates in a celebration of the resurrection of Christ!

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Tuesday Bible Study @ 6:30 (click the zoom link)

Wednesday Prayer @6:30 (click the zoom link)