



Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life

John 10:11-18

INTRODUCTION

Spring is a wonderful time of the year. It is a season of new life and new hope. Our world will soon be bursting forth with new life that cannot be restrained. Winter pushes us inside, forcing us to find shelter in the warmth of our homes. Spring invites us outdoors again. Winter confines us. Spring offers us new freedom. Winter often depresses our spirit, while spring uplifts us.

In C.S. Lewis' book, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, Narnia is a land trapped in winter. There is no life, only cold, frozen barrenness. When Aslan arrives, so does spring, and with it the hope and excitement of new life.

We live in a world trapped in spiritual winter. Although outwardly we see the signs of physical life, inwardly we live in a frozen, dead world. Our souls are confined and stunted. When Jesus came into the world, he changed all of that. He came to free us from our spiritual deadness, and give us new life in him. This life is available to us right now, if we will put our trust in Jesus.

There are many people who are in a panic right now because of the Covid-19 pandemic. They have reverted to survival mode. As followers of Jesus, we do not have to live in that kind of fear. No matter what happens, we can trust Jesus to walk with us on this journey of life. Our life is secure in Him.

Jesus met Martha and Mary at their time of greatest need. He shared their grief, but He also replaced it with new hope. No matter what we face in life, we know that we do not have to face it alone. Our hope is in Jesus and that hope is secure.

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Study 1: John 11:1-16

1. How does John describe the situation in verses 1-3? What does it say about Jesus' relationship with this family?
2. What was Jesus response to this situation? Why would Jesus delay going to Bethany?
3. When Jesus finally decided to go, how did the disciples react?
4. What was Jesus' response to the disciples?
5. How did Jesus prepare the disciples for what was going to happen?
6. How did Thomas demonstrate his faith in Jesus?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What do you expect from Jesus when you are facing a crisis?
2. What does this passage tell us about God's timing?
3. How does Jesus use the crises of our lives to demonstrate His glory?
4. What things get in the way of us trusting Jesus during a crisis?
5. Why does Jesus allow us to face difficult situations?
6. In what ways is Thomas an example for us?

Study 2: John 11:17-27

1. What is the significance that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days?

2. What did Martha do when she heard that Jesus was coming? What did Mary do? What may account for the difference?

3. How did Martha confront Jesus when they met?

4. What assurance did Jesus give to Martha?

5. How did Martha understand what Jesus was saying?

6. What important truth did Jesus share with Martha?

7. How did Martha respond to Jesus' words?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How long does it take for you to give up hope that God will act on your behalf?
2. What are some of the excuses for unbelief that people use when they don't get what they want from God?
3. How did Martha demonstrate faith in Jesus even in the midst of her disappointment?
4. Martha's faith was shaped by the teachings of the day. (Look at Daniel 12:2-3) How do the common beliefs of our day shape our faith?
5. What does it mean for you to truly believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?

Study 3: John 11:28-37

1. How did Mary react when Martha told her that Jesus was there and asking about her?

2. Why might Jesus have waited for Mary to come to Him?

3. How did Mary respond to Jesus when she saw Him? What does this tell us about the depth of her grief?

4. How did Jesus respond to Mary and those with her?

5. What would have caused Jesus to weep?

6. What was the reaction of those who were with Mary? Why was there a mixed reaction? What does that tell us about the crowd?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. In what ways can you hear Jesus calling you in your time of crisis?
2. What does it mean for you to go to Jesus?
3. Both Mary and Martha expressed their genuine emotions to Jesus. What does it mean for you to do the same? (Consider 1 Peter 5:7, Philippians 4:6-7)
4. Have you ever considered that Jesus cares about how you are feeling? What difference does it make that Jesus is not impassive toward you?
5. What is it that makes Jesus weep today? (Consider Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35; Luke 19:41-44)
6. What excuses do people give today for refusing to believe in Jesus?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What does Jesus' command to take the stone away tell us about what it means to follow Jesus?

2. What are some types of objections we use for not doing what Jesus tells us to do?

3. Jesus could have miraculously removed the stone on His own. Why does God ask us to partner with Him in what He does?

4. How can the Bible serve the same purpose for us as Jesus' prayer in verse 41-42?

5. How does the raising of Lazarus illustrate our salvation? (John 5:24)

6. What does it mean for us to throw off our old grave clothes? (Consider Hebrews 12:1-3)