



Sermon Series: John - The Word of Life - Part 36

Message: “Real Comfort & Hope”

Text: John 11:1-45

Date: 09/04/2022

- ★ John’s purpose for writing was to connect people to Jesus! (John 20:30-31)
- ★ John was writing to Jewish Christians being kicked out of their synagogues (John 9:22)

John 11:1-16

- (v1) Lazarus, Mary and Martha are siblings
- (v1) Bethany in Judea, a couple miles east of Jerusalem
- (v3) “love” (*phileo*) = friendship or brotherly love [*Philadelphia*]
- (v6) Jesus isn’t in a hurry! See also, John 4:47-50 (Jesus heals from afar)
 - Our prayers aren’t dependent upon location
- (v8) the last time they were in Judea, the religious leaders tried to kill Jesus
- (v9-10) while the light is still in the world, there’s still work to do (see John 9:4-5)
- (v11-15) the knowledge of Lazarus being dead came through supernatural means
- (v16) this is the famous “doubting Thomas”

John 11:17-45

- (v17-19) Jewish mourning rituals
 - Friends and family came from all over to comfort those in mourning
- (v20-24) Christians and most Jews believe in a future resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in a future resurrection.
- (v33) “deeply moved in spirit and troubled” - suppressing emotions forcefully
 - Jesus was moved due to the unbelief of the people around Him
- (v42) the reason Jesus allowed Lazarus to die was so that people would come to believe in Him once He raised Lazarus back to life
- (v45) many people put their faith and trust in Jesus when Lazarus was raised!

What kind of *hope* do we have as Christians? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- “hope” in the New Testament refers to the confidence and assurance we have in Jesus and His promises (ex: Hebrews 11:1)

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed [*deep joy*] are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- See also Revelation 21:3-4

- Going Deeper -

For individual or small group study

There are 7 “signs” of Jesus in John that all serve to reveal Jesus as God and King; the raising of Lazarus being the 7th. However, this wasn’t the only time Jesus raised someone from the dead...

1. **READ Luke 7:11-17.** Despite an incredible miracle, what did the people misunderstand about Jesus?

2. **READ Luke 8:40-56.** Why were the people wailing and mourning? What does this event show us about Jesus’ authority over life and death? Why would Jesus order those in the house not to tell anyone what happened? What do you think people thought when they saw the girl was okay?

Jesus wasn’t the only person to raise someone from the dead. In the Old Testament, Elijah raised a widow’s son and Elisha raised two people. And in the New Testament, both Peter and Paul raised someone back to life...

3. **READ Acts 9:36-42.** Think about this story when compared to Lazarus being raised. Do you notice any similarities (especially verse 42)?

4. **READ Acts 20:7-12.** Notice that the text doesn’t say people were greatly “astonished.” What’s different about the people present for this miracle? Why were they *comforted* instead of *astonished*?

5. Would you say the act of raising the dead is a “normal” miracle in that we ought to see it done on a regular basis today? Who always gets the credit for the dead being raised? How is our faith linked to our requests to God (James 1:5-8; Mark 11:22-24). Why does God sometimes not grant requests from faithful people?

Recommended Resources

- *NIV Faithlife Illustrated Study Bible*, christianbook.com, <https://bit.ly/3kxieXw>
- “Overview: John 1-12” by Bible Project, search on YouTube