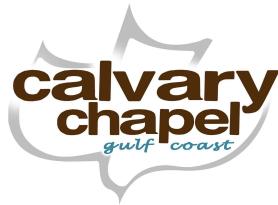




## Summary

In this exploration of John 11, we delve into the profound story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This narrative isn't just about a miraculous event; it's a testament to the transformative power of faith in Christ. We're reminded that Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' - a truth that transcends physical death. The passage challenges us to examine our own faith: do we truly believe in Jesus' power over death? Martha's unwavering faith, even before witnessing the miracle, serves as an inspiring example for us all. This message encourages us to cultivate a faith that doesn't rely on visible miracles but on the unchanging nature of Christ. It's a call to trust in Jesus' promises, even in the face of grief and seemingly impossible situations. As we reflect on this, let's consider how our faith stands in times of trial and how we can grow in our trust in Jesus as the source of eternal life.



## Points

Title: The Resurrection and the Life: Jesus' Power Over Death

**Sermon Summary:** This sermon explores the raising of Lazarus from the dead, emphasizing Jesus' divine nature as the resurrection and the life. It delves into the themes of faith, grief, and the power of Christ over death. The pastor highlights how Jesus' delay in coming to Bethany served to glorify God and strengthen the faith of believers. The sermon also addresses the nature of true faith, the reality of grief, and Jesus' compassion in the face of human suffering.

**Key Points:**

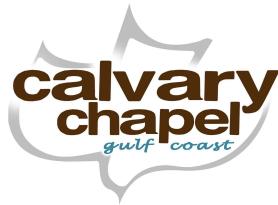
- Jesus' delay in coming to Bethany was purposeful, allowing for a greater miracle to occur
- True faith in Christ is not dependent on seeing miracles but on trusting His word
- Jesus' statement "I am the resurrection and the life" is a profound declaration of His divinity
- Grief is a natural human response to death, and even Jesus wept
- Faith in Jesus is the only hope for reuniting with loved ones after death
- Miracles do not produce faith; rather, faith creates an environment for miracles

**Scripture Reference:**

- John 11:17-37 (primary focus)
- Luke 8:51-56 (raising of Jairus' daughter)
- Matthew 16:13-19 (Peter's confession of faith)
- Luke 16:19-31 (The Rich Man and Lazarus)

**Stories:**

- The raising of Lazarus from the dead after four days
- The pastor's personal experience of praying for a coworker with a tumor
- The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (as told by Jesus)
- The pastor's experience of losing his cousin Holly in a car accident



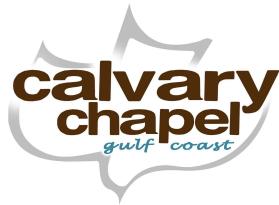
## Scripture

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. John 11:17-37 (main passage being studied)
2. Luke 7:14-15
3. Luke 8:41, 54-55
4. John 11:4
5. John 11:6
6. John 11:3
7. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
8. Luke 8:51-56
9. Matthew 13:54-58
10. 2 Corinthians 5:8
11. Matthew 16:13-19
12. 1 Corinthians 15:22 (alluded to with "As in Adam, all die")
13. Romans 10:17
14. Hebrews 4:15
15. Luke 19:41

Additional themes discussed without specific references, with suggested relevant verses:

1. Faith and belief in Jesus: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9
2. Jesus as the resurrection and the life: John 11:25-26
3. God's purpose in delays: Isaiah 55:8-9
4. Miracles and faith: Matthew 17:20
5. Grief and comfort: Psalm 34:18, Matthew 5:4
6. Sin and death: Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23
7. Jesus' humanity and emotions: John 1:14, Hebrews 2:17
8. Eternal life and reunion with loved ones: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



## Quotes

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And faith in Jesus is the environment where miracles of Jesus take place.

Jesus wept. And people wonder why. Was he sad because Lazarus had died? Was he sad because of what he saw in the grief of Martha and Mary?

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

If you desire to see your loved ones again, faith in Jesus is your only hope. But by faith in Jesus, you will see your loved ones again.

Miracles do not produce faith. All they produce is a hunger for more miracles, something else to excite the soul, something else to get us all stirred up.

There are no guarantees, even with faith in Jesus. I pray for some people and they get healed. I prayed for one of my best friends who was an elder, fantastic elder named Mark Braden. I prayed and prayed and prayed for him. And he was healed for a season, but then the Lord took him, took him home.



## Discussion Questions

How does Jesus' statement 'I am the resurrection and the life' challenge our understanding of life, death, and eternity?

In what ways might our faith be tested or strengthened when facing the death of a loved one, as Martha and Mary experienced?

How do you reconcile the idea that 'miracles do not produce faith' with the many miraculous acts Jesus performed in the Gospels?

What can we learn from Jesus' emotional response (weeping, groaning in spirit) to Lazarus' death and the grief of his loved ones?

How might understanding Jesus as both fully divine and fully human (as seen in His response to Lazarus' death) impact our relationship with Him?

In what ways does the story of Lazarus challenge or affirm your beliefs about the afterlife and resurrection?

How can we cultivate a faith that, like Martha's, remains strong even in the face of seemingly unanswered prayers or delayed responses from God?

What insights does the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (in Luke 16) offer about the nature of faith and the power of God's word?

How might Jesus' command to 'believe and see' rather than 'see and believe' apply to our lives and faith journeys today?

In what ways does the concept of Jesus as 'the resurrection and the life' offer hope and comfort in our daily lives, beyond just the moment of physical death?



## Small Group Guide: Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture: John 11:17-37

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you most from the story of Jesus raising Lazarus? Why?
2. How does Martha's response to Jesus (verses 21-22, 27) demonstrate faith? In what ways can we cultivate that kind of faith in difficult circumstances?
3. Jesus states, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). What does this mean to you personally? How does it impact your view of death and eternity?
4. The sermon mentions that "miracles do not produce faith." Do you agree or disagree? Share experiences that have shaped your faith.
5. How do you reconcile Jesus' emotions (groaning, being troubled, weeping) with His divine nature? What does this reveal about His character?
6. In what ways can we, as believers, offer comfort and hope to those grieving the loss of loved ones?

Key Takeaways:

1. Faith in Jesus is the environment where miracles can take place, but there are no guarantees.
2. Believers in Christ never truly die - they transition to eternal life.
3. Jesus experiences and understands human emotions, including grief.
4. Our faith should not be dependent on seeing miracles, but on trusting God's Word.

Practical Applications:

1. Memorize John 11:25-26 this week and reflect on its meaning for your life.
2. Write a letter to God expressing your faith in Him, even in difficult circumstances you may be facing.
3. Reach out to someone who is grieving and offer support, keeping in mind Jesus' compassion.
4. Share your testimony of faith with a non-believer, focusing on the hope we have in Christ.

Closing Prayer:



Thank God for the hope of resurrection and eternal life through Jesus Christ. Ask for strength to live out your faith daily and to be a source of comfort and hope to others.

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## Daily Devotional

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the sermon:

### Day 1: The Power of Faith in the Face of Death

Reading: John 11:17-27

Devotional: In times of grief and loss, our faith can be severely tested. Martha's response to Jesus after her brother's death is a powerful testament to unwavering belief. Despite her sorrow, she affirmed, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" (John 11:27). Today, reflect on your own faith. How does it hold up in the face of life's challenges? Remember that true faith isn't dependent on circumstances but on the unchanging nature of Christ. Ask God to strengthen your faith, especially in difficult times.

### Day 2: Jesus' Compassion in Our Suffering

Reading: John 11:28-37

Devotional: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35) is a profound reminder of Christ's humanity and empathy. Even knowing He would raise Lazarus, Jesus shared in the grief of those around Him. This shows us that God doesn't stand aloof from our pain but enters into it with us. Today, bring your sorrows and struggles before the Lord, knowing He understands and cares deeply. Allow His compassion to comfort you and inspire you to show empathy to others in their times of need.

### Day 3: The Promise of Resurrection

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

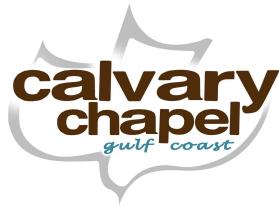
Devotional: Paul reminds us not to grieve like those who have no hope. For believers, death is not the end but a transition to eternal life with Christ. This hope should transform how we view death and live our lives. Today, meditate on the promise of resurrection. How does this eternal perspective change your approach to daily challenges? Let this hope be an anchor for your soul, encouraging you to live with purpose and joy, knowing that our ultimate future is secure in Christ.

### Day 4: Trusting God's Timing

Reading: John 11:1-6

Devotional: Jesus' delay in coming to Lazarus might seem puzzling, but it reveals an important truth about God's timing. Often, what we perceive as divine inaction is actually God working behind the scenes for a greater purpose. Reflect on situations in your life where God's timing differed from your expectations. How can you grow in trusting God's perfect timing, even when it doesn't align with your desires? Ask for patience and faith to wait on the Lord's perfect plan.

### Day 5: Christ as the Resurrection and the Life



Reading: John 11:38-44

Devotional: Jesus' declaration, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), is a cornerstone of Christian faith. This statement, followed by Lazarus' resurrection, demonstrates Christ's power over death itself. Today, consider what areas of your life need resurrection – perhaps a relationship, a dream, or your spiritual fervor. Bring these before Jesus, trusting in His life-giving power. Remember that the same power that raised Lazarus is available to us through faith in Christ. Let this truth invigorate your walk with God and inspire hope in every aspect of your life.

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