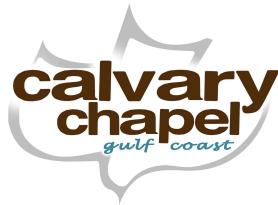




Summary

In John 11, we dive deep into the story of Lazarus' resurrection and its profound implications for our faith. The central message revolves around Jesus' declaration, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' This miraculous event not only demonstrates Christ's power over death but also challenges us to confront our own beliefs about eternal life. As we witness the reactions of Martha, Mary, and even the religious leaders, we're prompted to examine our own response to Jesus' claim. Are we, like Martha, willing to believe even when faced with seemingly impossible circumstances? Or do we, like the Pharisees, let our preconceptions and worldly concerns blind us to the truth? This passage reminds us that our desire for eternal life is God-given, but the choice of where we spend that eternity rests with us. It's a call to examine our hearts, to consider where we've placed our trust, and to embrace the life-giving power of Christ in our daily walk.





Points

Title: Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the profound truth of Jesus' power over death, as demonstrated in the raising of Lazarus. It emphasizes the importance of believing in Christ for eternal life and addresses the resistance to this truth by religious leaders. The sermon challenges listeners to consider their own stance on Jesus' claim to be the resurrection and the life, urging them to make a decision for faith in Christ.

Key Points:

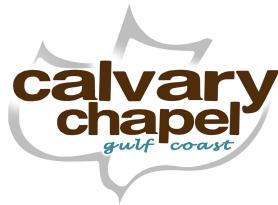
- God has placed a desire for eternal life in every human heart
- Jesus demonstrates His power over death by raising Lazarus
- The religious leaders' resistance to Jesus' miracle reveals the danger of entrenched beliefs
- Everyone must choose whether to accept or reject Jesus' claim to be the source of eternal life
- Belief in Jesus' resurrection is essential for salvation
- The consequences of rejecting Christ are eternal

Scripture Reference:

- John 11:38-54 (primary focus)
- Ecclesiastes 3:9-13
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 32
- Romans 5:12
- Mark 9:43-48
- Acts 23:6-8
- Matthew 28:11-15

Stories:

- The raising of Lazarus from the dead after four days
- The religious leaders' plot to kill Jesus after the miracle
- The high priest Caiaphas unknowingly prophesying about Jesus' death
- Paul's strategic use of the resurrection debate to divide his accusers



Scripture

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

1. Ecclesiastes 3:9-13
2. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
3. 1 Corinthians 15:32
4. Romans 5:12
5. Genesis 2 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
6. Genesis 3 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
7. 1 Corinthians 15:22
8. John 11:38-39
9. Mark 9:43-48
10. Isaiah 66:24 (mentioned as being quoted in Mark 9)
11. John 11:4
12. John 11:11
13. John 11:14-15
14. John 11:23
15. John 11:25-26
16. John 11:40
17. John 11:41-44
18. John 11:45-48
19. Acts 23:6-8
20. Matthew 28:11-15
21. John 11:6
22. 1 Samuel 10:10-12
23. 1 Samuel 19:23-24
24. John 11:53-54
25. Psalm 22 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
26. Isaiah 52-53 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
27. Exodus 12 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
28. Psalm 16:10
29. Numbers 22-24 (alluded to, not specifically cited)
30. Numbers 22:28-30
31. Romans 10:9 (paraphrased, not directly quoted)



Quotes

Let's face it. The real reason we're here today is because we want to live forever. It is an innate desire implanted in every human heart by God.

Evolution has no explanation for the existence of death in the first place. Oh, we can observe it. We know that somehow the aging process is kicked off in the life of every human being, even little Isaac here, that there's an arc to his life, that there's a trajectory to his life. but we know that we're all gonna die and we're born with that knowledge.

Jesus informs us of the existence of an eternity in hell for those who choose to live unrighteously because they will not believe in Jesus despite all the evidence God has provided in his Son.

Despite all the evidence for Christ, it seems there will always be some who refuse to believe. They have too much invested in this world to consider eternity.

If your entrenched doctrine does not believe in resurrection, and if your power and financial stake are entangled in unbelief, then anyone who begins to think this may actually have happened as reported can know nothing at all.

Even if John chapter 11 was the only chapter that you had ever read, you would have been provided with enough evidence that Jesus is Messiah, that Jesus is Lord, that not only do we have an understanding of why death exists in the first place, but we also have learned through the course of this study that Jesus alone has power over death and dying.

The amazing thing is that we think we sit in judgment of Jesus. That's a natural assumption, isn't it? Well, I'll decide whether I'm gonna follow him or not. The reality is that Jesus sits in judgment of you.



Discussion Questions

How does the concept of eternity being placed in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11) influence our daily lives and decisions?

In what ways might entrenched religious beliefs or traditions hinder a person's ability to recognize and accept spiritual truth, as seen with the Sadducees' rejection of resurrection?

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

What parallels can we draw between the Sanhedrin's reaction to Lazarus' resurrection and how people today might respond to claims of miraculous events?

How does the idea that Jesus sits in judgment of us, rather than the other way around, change our perspective on faith and decision-making?

In what ways might pride and fear of embarrassment, as seen with Caiaphas, prevent people from accepting new spiritual truths or changing their beliefs?

How does the concept of Jesus having power over both physical and spiritual death impact our view of life's challenges and ultimate purpose?

What can we learn from the contrasting responses to Jesus' miracles - some believing while others plotting against him?

How might the story of Lazarus' resurrection challenge our own beliefs about the finality of death and the power of God?

In what ways does the choice between 'allowing Jesus to live in our hearts' or 'putting him to death' manifest in our daily lives and decisions?



Small Group Guide: The Power of Resurrection and Belief

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

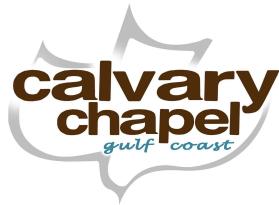
1. Jesus has power over death and dying, as demonstrated by raising Lazarus.
2. Everyone has an innate desire for eternal life, placed there by God.
3. The Bible provides a reasonable explanation for the existence of death.
4. Our response to Jesus' resurrection power determines our eternal destiny.
5. Religious traditions or worldly investments can hinder belief in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that God has "put eternity in their hearts" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). How does this idea resonate with you personally?
2. What stood out to you most about Jesus' interaction with Martha and Mary in John 11?
3. Why do you think some people, like the religious leaders, rejected the evidence of Lazarus' resurrection? How might we face similar challenges in belief today?
4. The sermon highlights Jesus' statement: "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25) What does this mean to you practically?
5. How does understanding Jesus' power over death impact your daily life and decisions?
6. The sermon mentions that some people are too invested in this world to consider eternity. How can we maintain an eternal perspective while living in the present?
7. What are some ways we might inadvertently "put Jesus to death" in our hearts to preserve our earthly existence or religious heritage?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week reflecting on your own beliefs about resurrection and eternal life. Journal your thoughts and any questions that arise.
2. Practice sharing the story of Lazarus' resurrection with a friend or family member, emphasizing Jesus' power over death.
3. Identify any areas in your life where you might be resisting Jesus' authority. Commit to surrendering those areas to Him.



4. Set aside time each day to consider eternity and how it impacts your current choices and priorities.

5. Look for opportunities to demonstrate Christ's life-giving power through acts of kindness and sharing hope with others.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on the sermon's message throughout the week and to support one another in applying its truths to their lives.



Daily Devotional

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

Day 1: The Reality of Eternity

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

Devotional: God has placed eternity in our hearts. This profound truth reminds us that our longing for something beyond this life is not misplaced. As you reflect on today's passage, consider how this eternal perspective shapes your daily life. Are you living with eternity in mind? How might your priorities shift if you truly embraced the reality of eternal life? Take time to thank God for the gift of eternal hope and ask Him to help you live each day in light of eternity.

Day 2: The Power of Resurrection

Reading: John 11:38-44

Devotional: Jesus' raising of Lazarus demonstrates His power over death itself. This miracle foreshadows Christ's own resurrection and the hope we have in Him. As you meditate on this passage, consider areas in your life that seem "dead" or hopeless. How can Jesus' power bring new life to these situations? Pray for faith to believe in Christ's resurrection power, not just for eternal life, but for transformation in your daily walk with Him.

Day 3: Choosing to Believe

Reading: John 11:45-53

Devotional: Even in the face of undeniable evidence, some still chose not to believe in Jesus. This passage reveals the human tendency to resist truth when it challenges our preconceptions or threatens our way of life. Examine your own heart today. Are there areas where you're resisting God's truth? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unbelief or hardness of heart, and pray for the courage to fully surrender to Christ, regardless of the cost.

Day 4: Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life

Reading: John 11:25-27

Devotional: Jesus' bold declaration, "I am the resurrection and the life," is at the core of Christian faith. This statement offers hope not just for the future, but for abundant life now. How does this truth impact your daily life? In what ways can you experience the resurrected life of Christ today? Spend time thanking Jesus for His gift of eternal life and ask Him to help you live fully in the power of His resurrection.

Day 5: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: John 11:32-37

Devotional: Jesus' emotional response to Lazarus' death and the grief of Mary and Martha reveals God's compassion in our suffering. Even knowing He would raise Lazarus, Jesus wept with those who mourned. This reminds us that God is not distant from our pain but enters into it with us. Reflect on times of suffering in your own life. How have you experienced God's presence in those



moments? Take time to pour out your heart to God, knowing He understands and cares deeply for you.