

John 11:1-44

How You View Brokenness

Image Church // Changes Week 4

Introduction

Well **Happy Easter** Image Family, and friends that are joining in with us this morning!

If this is your first time tuning in, we want to connect with you **so make sure to text in the number on the screen** so that we can follow up with you and help get you connected, answer any questions, or serve you in any way!

I want you to know that I miss all of you like crazy, I wish we could be together today more than you know- I never expected to be preaching to a camera on Easter Sunday but here we are **#untraditionalEaster**.

And I know that it's not just different for me, *but it's also different for you too*, and so we'd love to hear from you today- if you haven't done it already, take a picture of something that's completely **untraditional** about your **Easter Sunday** (*it might even happen here in a little bit*) take a picture, use the hashtag and then tag us so that we can share it...

Well, today is a **special day** where churches all around the world come together to remember and celebrate the central claim of Christianity...

That a man who had been killed, and confirmed dead, got up out of the grave by His own power... Proving that He was God, and completing everything necessary to save sinful people like you and me, by offering us new life through His finished work...

When we talk about the resurrection of Jesus, we don't mean this figuratively, poetically, metaphorically, we mean it literally! See, the resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith, *and it changes everything!*

Over the past several weeks the theme of our time together has been **change**... And this morning I want to look at this question: How does the resurrection change the way that we view the broken reality that we live in?

I want to read you a quote from a brilliant Christian apologist, who's also the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, his name is: **CS Lewis**...

- **CS Lewis** is an incredible story, he was an atheist who converted to Christianity, and then spent the rest of his life arguing for Christianity...

But I want to share with you a piece of something he after his wife tragically died of cancer *he says*:

"[I can't understand why God is always there when things are going well...] But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence... The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become... **Why is God so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?**"¹

¹ C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins, 1961), 17.

That's not a typical CS Lewis Quote! By God's grace, **CS Lewis** made it through this, and ultimately his faith was strengthened by it.

But if we're honest, many of us either have felt this, will feel this or we're feeling this way right now especially in light of the current circumstances... Where is God in all this?!?

And the truth is, whether it's related to the **COVID-19** Pandemic or not, chances are your struggling through something... *Maybe it's that:*

- All your friends are getting married right now, but you aren't.
- Maybe your struggle with infertility...
- Maybe your struggle with loneliness...
- Your friends are getting jobs or promotions but it's not working out for you.
- Maybe you're having to live paycheck to paycheck...
- Maybe you lost your job
- Maybe you have a son or daughter who strayed away from the faith....
- Maybe you have affected by a tragic divorce
- Maybe your struggling with your health...
- Or maybe you're just looking for answers, or how you can point people to hope in a time like this?

I want to show you how the truth of the resurrection impacts how we view the brokenness that we face in our lives, and how God hasn't shut the door on our face, *He's actually opened up His heart...*

If you have your Bible go ahead and turn to John Chapter 11...

What we're going to be looking at this morning is going to give us answers and it's going to fill us with hope as we look at the implications of the resurrection... *Let's jump into John 11 verse 1...*

John 11:1-45

Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. **3** So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. **7** Then after that, he said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."

Verse 11

11 He said this, and then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm on my way to wake him up." **12** Then the disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well." **13** Jesus, however, was speaking about his death, but they thought he was speaking about natural sleep. **14** So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died."

Let me stop right here for just a minute, and I want to give you the first thing that we need to see this morning that will help us have the right **understanding** to be able to answer the question that we're looking at *when it comes to the resurrection and how it shapes the way that we view the world...*

1. Death is evidence that we live in a broken world

Our world is broken, but it didn't start that way... When God created the world and everything in it, it was perfectly good...

It was a world where there was **perfect harmony** between **creation** and the **Creator**... One where **Adam** and **Eve**- the first humans walked with God in an unbroken relationship absent of sin...

And all of creation was even synced up in perfect harmony:

- Adam and Eve had the perfect marriage... *Imagine that!*

- There was no anxiety, no depression, no insecurity... *Adam and Eve walked around necked- talk about confidence... (yeah I said necked).*
- The animals didn't attack them...
- There was no sickness, there was hurt, there was no pain, there was no death...

Everything was perfectly good and glorious existing in perfect harmony together...

And **Adam** and **Eve** had free reign in the beautiful garden that God had placed them in- there was just **one command** that God gave them... And that was not to eat of a very specific tree in the garden...

God said ***if you eat of that tree you will die...***

- You would think that given what Adam and Eve had, and the perfect harmony that were experiencing with God and with the world, that they wouldn't go anywhere near that tree, but they did...

They didn't just go near it, **they took the fruit of the tree and they ate it...**

Adam and Eve made the decision to **reject** the one command of the God that brought them into the world... Turning their backs on Him in their rebellion as they choose their way over His way, their desires over Him.

And in that moment sin entered the world... **Sin** by definition is **failure...** Adam and Eve failed to obey God...

And the second Adam and Eve sinned, **it changed everything** the harmonious relationship between God and creation was **severed...**

The **perfect goodness** of creation no longer existed, and so creation began to **unravel...**

The aftermath of sin impacts 4 relationships: ²

- Broken relationship between man and God
- Broken relationship between man and man
- Broken relationship between man and creation
- Broken relationship between man and self

Sin's impact was pervasive, polluting and breaking apart that which was good...

***Which means this...** that every bad thing that we see, every bad thing that we experience, every sickness, every natural disaster, every death, is a direct result of the **distortion** and **destruction** that sin caused...

We see the immediate effects of the distortion that sin caused with Adam and Eve on a *personal level*... Where for the first time that they were *necked*...

Now, I know you're wondering, **how they were they just figuring that out...** Well there was a purity and an innocence about them before they sinned that had vanished...

Let me compare it to this: when your kids are really young and they run around necked without a care in the world, and people think it's cute... *That might be happening right now!*

- But when you get older that innocence is gone... No grown man or woman is just going to run around necked...
- There's an awareness that happens when you realize: *"It's not ok to run around necked" ... now granted, that awareness came a little later for some of you, but you get the point!*

See, Adam and Eve all the sudden experienced a new awareness... One where they went from *innocent* to *insecure*...

So, what do they do? They run and get some *fig leaves* and make cloths...

This is big- here's why: What we see right of the jump was Adam and Eve's attempt to fix the problem... It was their first instinct post sin to try and *fix* the brokenness they were experiencing...

- But they failed in their attempt, *the fig leaves were a short-term fix to a long-term problem*...
- Those fig leaves won't last, they would eventually wither and rot... and they would have to keep trying over and over...

And in the midst of all this, the rebellion, the shame, the insecurity, God does two incredible things in **Genesis 3**...

- God promises a deliverer that would one day provide a *rescue* for the broken state of humanity...
- And then God *kills an animal* in order to provide cloths to cover Adam and Eve in the midst of their sin...

And what we need to see in this, is that only God could provide the covering that they needed, a covering that would last and that wouldn't have to be replaced...

- But that covering came at a cost... the death of an animal...
Something had to die in order for Adam Eve to be covered...

And this is an incredible *foreshadow* of what God's promised delivered would do...

And so, here in **John 11** Lazarus' sickness and death is evidence of the broken and fallen state of humanity... And yet, ***we're going to watch at how God uses the greatest evidence of brokenness to bring about our greatest source of hope***...

Let's keep reading, look at verse 17

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb **four days**.

Verse 20

20 As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

21 Then **Martha** said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. **22** Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** "**Your brother will rise again,**" Jesus told her. **24** Martha said to him,

"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?**" **27** "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world." **28** Having said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** As soon as Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

Verse 32

32 As soon as **Mary** came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!"

33 When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was **deeply moved** in his spirit and troubled. **34** "**Where have you put him?**" he asked.

"Lord," they told him, "come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

Here's the second thing that you need to see as we build out the answer for how the resurrection changes the way we view the world...

2. Jesus entered into our brokenness and it brought Him to tears

This is a powerful... *Jesus weeps*... But the question is **why** does he weep? It's not because of what you might think...

It's **not** because He's sad because Lazarus died- He knows what's about to happen...

Then why is He weeping?!?

Well, there's a repeated phrase that shows us **why** Jesus is weeping, and it's the phrase **deeply moved**...

- And it literally means: ***the snorting of horses***; applied to human beings, it means anger, outrage or emotional indignation.

So, what is Jesus is angry and outraged about??

Jesus was angry at the **brokenness of this world**, angry at **sin**, angry at **sickness** and **death** that's ravaging mankind wreaking havoc and generating so much sorrow...

And He was outraged at the **lack of faith and belief** by the people around Him...

- **2 times** He's questioned *Lord if you would have been here...*
- And the people were morning as if there was no hope even with Jesus there...

In this we see in the **blind and broken** state of the human heart...

And it's all of this that leads Jesus to anger and outrage that brings Him to tears... ***You say really tears???***

See, for us when we're **angry** and **outraged** its completely inconsistent with being loving and empathetic... But with Jesus, who's perfect in every way we're not, it's the exact opposite...

*The same sin and death, the same unbelief, that prompted Jesus' outrage, also generated his grief and compassion.*³

Listen, and some of you need to hear this today, what this means is that ***God's not OK with the brokenness that you live in!***

- That's why Jesus came, it's why Jesus was moved to tears over the destruction that sins caused...

And even though it's our fault and not His, He didn't leave us to be *ravaged by sin* and the effects of sin, He didn't wipe His hands and say *Oh well...* He didn't stay distant from us and say you figure out how to fix this...

The perfect Son of God came to sinful humanity, He entered into our brokenness, and **He had compassion on us**, so much so it moved Him to tears...

- How incredible is the love of God for us that he would send Jesus!

*And even in the midst of your **personal brokenness**, your unbelief, your doubt, your lack of faith- God still puts on display His compassion for you through Jesus...

Jesus entered into our brokenness and it brought Him to tears...

Let's keep reading and look at what happens in the midst of this painful reality here where Jesus weeps, watch what happens next...

Verse 38 Then Jesus, **deeply moved** again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** ***Remove the stone,*** Jesus said. Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, ***Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.***

- **KJV says *stenkith* here... no lie... for those of you KJV fans!**
- ***More doubt again here***

40 Jesus said to her, ***Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?*** **41** So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, ***Father, I thank you that you heard me.*** **42** ***I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.*** **43** After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, ***Lazarus, come out!*** **44** The

³ Thoughts and some wording in this section is credited to Carson, D. A. (1991). [The Gospel according to John](#) (p. 416).

dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

Here's the third thing that we need to see in order to shape out how the resurrection changes the way that we view the broken world around us...

3. Jesus came to bring restoration to a broken world

I want you to look back at **verse 6**: When Jesus found out Lazarus was sick He stayed where He was for 2 more days... **Why? Seems like jerk move, but we know Jesus isn't a jerk...**

Well, Jesus told us why He did this in **verse 4**: **This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.**

What does it mean?? Jesus gives us an incredible answer that shows us the purpose of this miracle... In **verse 25-26**, **Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.**

Listen, the glory of God that's being revealed **is Jesus, who is the resurrection of life, the deliverer**, the one to come to bring restoration to the brokenness...

Which means that: **The purpose of this miracle wasn't to be a good gesture toward Lazarus, but to demonstrate the glory of God by pointing to the deliverer who came to rescue us from our brokenness!**

See, after being filled with emotion over the broken reality of this world, standing in the midst of doubters... Jesus would stand toe-to-toe with death and resurrect Lazarus!

- In doing that He would show of His **power** and His **purpose**...

In the resurrection of Lazarus Jesus would paint a picture of the reversal of death that would ultimately come through what He was about to do!

Not long after this, there would be another time when Jesus would weep, and it would be in the **Garden of Gethsemane** before He would stand toe-to-toe with death once and for all...

See, Lazarus was a **foreshadow** what was about to come for Jesus... *The resurrection of Lazarus was the beginning of Jesus funeral procession...*⁴

Where Jesus would give his perfect life in our place on the cross taking on our sin, and the sin of the world... And in doing that, Jesus would become our **perfection** in His life, and take on our **punishment** in His death...

- He would live the life we were supposed to live but never could, and then He would die the death that was meant for us.

And He wouldn't stay dead, He would beat death through the resurrection giving us the opportunity to have of **new life in Him**...

Where God **doesn't** see us based on our broken sinfulness, He sees us based on the blood of Christ...

- Jesus did **everything necessary** to restore our relationship with God... to restore the harmony that once was before sin!

And His resurrection wasn't just the end, it was the start of something, **it was the rescue that will give way to the restoration**...

He reconciled us to God through His finished work, and He will also reconcile all things back to Himself, He will return and finish what He started, He will make all things new!

⁴ JD Greear, *Disappointment*; 9/16/2012.

So how does the resurrection change the way that we view the broken reality that we live in?

Well, first **A. The resurrection changes the way that you view your own brokenness...**

That yes, you're broken sinful and wicked and that sin separates you from a perfect and Holy God...

But God didn't just leave you in the midst of your *sin* and *separation from Him*... He redeems you back through the *blood bought sacrifice* of Jesus...

- Who is the resurrection of life, meaning that through Him you have *new life*, not a modified life, not a fixed life, not a patched-up life... Completely new life...
 - The new life offered in the resurrection doesn't have limits... No matter how bad you think you are...
 - Through the work of Jesus not yours...

B. The resurrection changes the way that you view the brokenness around you

For those who've trusted in Jesus, this life isn't all that there is, and death isn't the end, and brokenness and suffering are only temporary...

You're not left in the wake of the *aftermath of sin* to suffer forever... You can have *confidence* that *because you've been rescued from your sin, you will experience restoration from the effects of sin one day!*

I don't know what your experiencing right now, but as you struggle through things like, hurt, pain, suffering, disappointments, and death, as hard as they are...

Understand that God see's you, and He's not absent of your pain, He entered into it- giving up His life for you so that you would see the

glory of God in the underserved love that's been extended to you through Christ!

And so, when you come face to face with the *broken realities of this world*— as we stand in the midst of something like **COVID-19**— we can look past it with confidence knowing that there's hope, that one day all of this will be no more!!

See, the resurrection changes everything because it *lifts our eyes past what's temporary to that which is eternal*... You have a hope beyond this life!

And I know it's hard to believe that as we encounter brokenness- hurt, pain, sickness, tragedy, natural disaster... Our minds go to: *WHERE'S GOD IN ALL OF THIS?!? WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING?!?!*

And we have to see that HE DID! He cared so much about our brokenness that He sent Jesus who was *perfect* and *Holy* to enter our *sin polluted world*- to walk with sinners- to be rejected- and then to be murdered- giving his life for rebels like you and me...

- The creator laying His life down for creation in order to bring about restoration! That's love, That's compassion!!

Conclusion [VAMP]

Don't allow the brokenness of this world to dilute the love of God...
Measure God's love by the *cross* and not by your *circumstances*...

Brokenness should drive us to God as we recognize all the more the need for the restoration that comes through the resurrection...

When you understand what Jesus has done for you, you it changes the way that you see the world around you... And it brings you to a place where you can worship in the brokenness as you long for the restoration promised through Christ that He proved will come through His resurrection!

Some of you need to remember this today, you've forgotten the power of the resurrection, you've forgotten the implication of the resurrection...

Call to respond:

The question this morning is do you believe in **Jesus**, who is ***the resurrection of life?***

*Some of you like **Mary and Martha lack belief*** – would you see and believe this morning...

- Jesus says the purpose of this miracle we read about today is so that we would see the glory of God ***in who Jesus is***, that He's the resurrection of life, the rescuer, He's the deliverer, the redeemer **and believe!**

Some of you need to believe this morning:

- Your walking in the broken reality of this world personally and experientially...
 - you have no answers and no hope...
- You need to receive the new life and the new hope that the resurrection offers...

I want to give you the chance to do that...

- Walk through response...

We're about to sing ***All because of Christ*** together and want you to use that time to respond to Jesus...

As they sing, and as you respond, there's going to be a number at the bottom of the screen, if you responded to Jesus ***today I want to ask***

you to text that number... We want to celebrate with you, and we want to pray for you...

Let's respond to the resurrection together...

Outtakes:

And listen, in your suffering and disappointments, when you cling to Jesus and the hope that He promises, ***the glory of God is revealed in you*** through your suffering, struggles and disappointments, not necessary in its ending, but in your ability to endure it!

Grief and compassion without outrage reduce to mere sentiment, while outrage without grief hardens into self-righteous arrogance and irascibility. -DA Carson

You cannot look back at the cross without looking forward to what the resurrection promises you!! See the love of God through Christ in not leaving you in your suffering but providing eternal deliverance!

Example:

Horatio G. Spafford: Was a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago he had a wife, and five children.

- Their young son died with pneumonia in 1871, in the same year, much of their business was lost in the great Chicago fire.

Business came back. On Nov. 21, 1873, a French ocean liner crossing the Atlantic from the U.S. to Europe had 313 passengers on board including **Mrs. Spafford and their four daughters.**

- **Horatio Spafford** had to stay in Chicago because of an unexpected business problem.
- **The ship went down.** His wife was saved, she sent a telegram that said these words: ***saved alone***

Horatio Spafford booked passage on the next available ship to join his grieving wife. On the way there, the captain called Spafford to his cabin and told him they were over the place where his children went down...

- ***Spafford would pen these words:***

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Chorus:

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Horatio Spafford, is able to say that it is well with his soul because he understands the hope of the one ***He's entrusted his soul to!!***