



One More Series

Part 5

August 30, 2023

The Gospel of Saint John 11: 38-44, “Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing

around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word tonight, in Jesus Name. Amen.

I desire for you to notice, with me, the last verse. “Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.” Isn’t it interesting that all who were witness to Christ working the miracle of Resurrection in the life of Lazarus had a part to play after his resurrection?

Christ commanded those who were standing by to loose him from the bonds of his grave clothes and let him go. Simply put, “I raised Him, You loose Him.”

We don’t realize how important of a role that we are called to play in the Kingdom. Christ died to save humanity, (we can all agree with that) but once they are saved they are in desperate need to have the family of God surround them, uplift them, demonstrate the love of Christ, and to remove the bondages that prohibit their functionality.

Simply put, a saint, whether newly born again or having been born again for 100 years, needs help to get the grave clothes off.

Thus, Point #1...

1) Lazarus was Raised from the Dead but was still Bound by Grave

Clothes!

- a) Verse 44, “The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth.”
- b) Church family, just because a person receives Christ and is born again does not translate to being set free, disciplined and prepared to walk out a faithful walk with Christ! And friends, just as Lazarus was, so are we.
- c) Observe that verse 44 annotates that Lazarus’ hands and feet were bound and that his head was wrapped in a cloth.
 - i) The Bondage of our Grave Clothes prohibit our Walk with Christ
 - Walk of Faith (Mobility)
 - ii) The Bondage of our Grave Clothes prohibit our work for Christ
 - Work of Ministry (Productivity)
 - iii) The Bondage of our Grave Clothes prohibit our Vision of Christ
 - Vision of Purpose (Perspective)
- d) The Modern Church mechanism is great at constructing partnership but terrible at facilitating relationship and discipleship.

e) Jesus said that the World would know that we were His disciples by the love that we have for one another! You can only love someone if you in a relationship with them.

f) **AND LIKE LAZARUS, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO CALL YOU OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE!**

g) Point #2...

2) Lazarus was Raised from the Dead but was still needed help to get loose from the Grave Clothes!

a) Church family, you need others to help loose you and set you free! Discipleship is not an individual act but a corporate one as well!

i) Feet - You need someone to show you the walk of Faith

ii) Hands - You need someone to show you the work of Ministry

iii) Face - You need someone to show you the possibilities of vision and discovering your purpose in Him.

b) **AND LIKE LAZARUS, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU GET LOOSE! YOU CAN'T UNBIND YOURSELF! YOU COULD HAVE UNBOUND YOURSELF BY NOW YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY DONE IT.**

c) And point #3...

3) Lazarus was Raised from the Dead but was he didn't realize how bound he was until he was free!

- a) You don't know how bound your feet were until you were shown how to walk this thing out.
- b) You don't know how bound your hands were until your shown how to work this thing out.
- c) You don't know how bound your vision was until your shown how to see this thing out.
- d) **AND LIKE LAZARUS, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO SHOW YOU HOW FREE YOU CAN BE IN CHRIST AND IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AKA THE CHURCH.**
- e) **YOU NEED YOUR NEIGHBOR JUST AS MUCH AS YOUR NEIGHBOR NEEDS YOU!**

So I will close my message to you this evening with a question, "How do we find lasting freedom?" And the answer is, "We find freedom in life when we see the value in one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and fulfill the Words of Jesus in John 11:44, "Loose him, and let him go."