

Week 9 Supernaturally Transformed Sermon Series

August 17, 2024

(No Notes for 8-11-24 Supernaturally Transformed Sermon Series)

Week 9 Supernaturally Transformed Series

Opening Monologue

Supernatural Transformation is more than just the miracles themselves. We have read and discussed some amazing things Jesus Christ did... but there is a theme in all of them.

Supernatural Transformation is about life. It's about a New Way, a New Direction... not doing the same old same old in our lives anymore. It's about heaven coming to earth in Jesus to take back what the "Father of Lies" stole from humanity in Eden.

Jesus told lost Nicodemus: ... "whoever believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16) Jesus told the Samaritan woman who had serious issues with relationships..." I am the living water of life" (John 4:10). Jesus also declared and John 10:10. "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come to give you abundant life. Honestly, I could go on and on, but you get the point. Jesus is the author of life, not death. (Luke 20:38)

For us, death seems so final... relationship, friendship and companionship- gone. Yes, it hurts, and the pain is real... even "Jesus wept" when Lazarus died. But Jesus proclaimed this truth to the world: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus then made his way to the tomb of Lazarus and said: “ Lazarus, come out!” and he gave him back to the family which he loved.

Friends Jesus is all about LIFE... and even if we don't see all our miracles come true on this side of heaven; we await our own resurrection to live in peace, tranquility, and to be with our Savior FOREVER. In the meantime, we put our faith trust and hope in Jesus Christ... and with Jesus, anything as possible!

Make sure to dive into the sermon that will be preached this Sunday to encourage your faith and be renewed and spirit.

Blessings in Christ!
Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: “Week 9 - Supernaturally Transformed” Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

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Key Sermon Text

John 3:16 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A16&version=NIV>

John 4:10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A10&version=NIV>

John 4:50 & 5:5-8 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A50+%amp;version=NIV>
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A5-8+%amp;version=NIV>

John 8:12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+8%3A12+%amp;version=NIV>

John 10:10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A10&version=NIV>

Luke 20:38 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+20%3A38&version=NIV>

John 11: 1-44
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+11%3A+1-44&version=NIV>

Summary of Jesus Christ's Supernatural Power

Supernatural transformation through Jesus Christ is rooted in the power of His death and resurrection, which offers redemption and a new creation to those who believe. This transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts, conforming us to the image of Christ. It is not merely an outward change, but an inward renewal that affects every aspect of our being.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it is written, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This verse encapsulates the essence of supernatural transformation—it is the transition from the old self, bound by sin, to a new self, living in righteousness and true holiness through Christ.

Romans 12:2 further instructs, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." This transformation involves a renewing of the mind, implying a significant change in how we think, feel, and perceive the world around us, aligning our will with God's.

The process of supernatural transformation is continuous, involving daily surrender to God, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Galatians 5:22-23 highlights the fruit of this transformation, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." As we walk in the Spirit, our lives increasingly exhibit these qualities, evidencing the transformative work of Christ within us.

This transformation is both personal and communal, impacting not only the individual believer but also the wider community as the love of Christ is manifested through acts of kindness, justice, and mercy. It's a journey of becoming more like Jesus, embracing His teachings, and living out the gospel in every aspect of life.

The resurrection of Lazarus from the dead played a significant role in leading people to believe in Jesus, as it served as a powerful demonstration of Jesus' divine authority and identity. This miraculous act not only showcased Jesus' power over life and death but also

revealed His deep compassion and the fulfillment of His own words regarding His mission and identity.

John 11:45 directly states the impact of this miracle: “Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.” This passage underscores that witnessing the resurrection of Lazarus led many onlookers to believe in Jesus. The miracle provided tangible evidence of Jesus’ claims about Himself, especially His declaration in John 11:25-26, where He says, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Furthermore, the raising of Lazarus also heightened the tension between Jesus and the religious authorities, propelling the narrative towards the climax of Jesus’ own death and resurrection. John 11:53 notes, “So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.” This indicates that the miracle not only attracted followers but also escalated the opposition against Jesus, setting the stage for the fulfillment of His purpose through His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection.

The event of Lazarus being raised from the dead thus serves as a pivotal sign in the Gospel of John, illustrating Jesus’ power, foreshadowing His resurrection, and drawing people to faith in Him. It exemplifies how Jesus’ miracles were not merely acts of compassion but also signs pointing to His divine nature and the salvation He offers to humanity. Through this miracle, Jesus invites all to believe in Him, promising eternal life to those who do, and reinforcing the hope of the resurrection for all believers.

Commentary

Main Text: John 11:1-44

In chapter 11, Jesus is “life” in its ultimate expression—he is “the resurrection and the life”—life after death. To the dead man, Lazarus, he offered resurrection life.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus raised others from the dead, including Jairus’s daughter (Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:41-42; Luke 8:40-56) and

a widow's son (Luke 7:11-17). These people represent a cross section of ages and social backgrounds to whom Jesus gave back human life. All of them, including Lazarus, were raised but eventually died again. Lazarus's story stands out because John used it as a sign of Jesus' ultimate life-giving power and a picture of his own coming resurrection. And, as with all the miracles recorded in this gospel, it glorifies God. From John's perspective, this miracle was the turning point; it caused the Jewish leaders to take decisive action against Jesus.

However, this chapter contains much more. We observe Jesus relating to different people under real stress. Two sisters were frantic about their sick brother and then devastated by his death. The crowds continued to voice divided opinions about Jesus. The disciples sensed the possible outcome of Jesus' ongoing verbal skirmishes with the religious leaders. Thomas displayed his courage and revealed his resolute attitude when he said: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (11:16 NIV). The chapter teaches us that in the middle of very difficult circumstances, Jesus the life-giver desires to help and guide us. We must trust him.

11:1-3 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Though John only introduces us to the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus at the end of Jesus' ministry, Jesus and the disciples often visited their home. Jesus enjoyed their close friendship and hospitality on his visits to Jerusalem, for Bethany was a village just outside of the city. In light of what happened, the meaning of Lazarus's name, "God is my help," became significant. Until he heard Jesus' voice outside the tomb Lazarus probably never realized just how prophetic his name would turn out to be!

At this time, Jesus was on the other side of the Jordan River, also in a town called Bethany. In 10:40 we are told that Jesus crossed the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing; that place is identified as "Bethany on the other side of the Jordan" (1:28 NIV). The events described in Luke 13:22-17:10 occurred between chapters 10 and 11 of John.

This Mary ... was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. John identified Mary with

an event described in the next chapter (12:1-7) because Mary's display of love for Christ was well known to the first-century Christians (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9).

NOT ISOLATED

Lazarus had been close to Jesus, yet he became deathly ill. The disciples may have asked a question similar to the one asked about the blind man in chapter 9, "Who sinned?" Or perhaps, "What did Lazarus do wrong?" But the Bible helps us see that sickness and death do not indicate that God has rejected someone or that they have done something wrong.

We must remind ourselves that neither we nor our loved ones are exempt. These three disciples of Jesus were his close friends and associates. Jesus loved them. Yet he did not rush to spare them grief. The presence of pain and suffering in the lives of faithful disciples of Jesus can teach us that Christians do not have different experiences in life, rather, they experience life differently. Our hope in Jesus does not insulate us from life's difficulties, but it does provide a way through and beyond them. God can use difficult experiences to make us more compassionate servants for him as we console others.

The sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." Though Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, is mentioned only in John 11 and 12, this verse and verse 5 show that Lazarus must have been Jesus' friend for quite some time.

11:4 When Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory." When Jesus heard of Lazarus's sickness, he knew that it would lead to death, but also that the glory of God would be revealed. Jesus' words, "This illness does not lead to death," referred to ultimate, final death. But his disciples understood him to mean that the illness was not serious. Again, we see the parallel between Jesus' response here and in 9:3. In the former passage, Jesus spoke of the man's blindness as an opportunity for God's works to be seen. Lazarus's death was an opportunity for the Son of God [to] be glorified. As in the case of the blind beggar who was healed (9:1-5, 24-38), miracles that alleviate human suffering often give God greater glory than the more commonplace blessings we

experience (Matthew 5:45). In fact, all of Jesus' healing miracles flow from his compassion. However, God strategically placed some miracles in human history to demonstrate his wise providence and his sovereignty.

TRIALS OF OPPORTUNITY

Any trial a believer faces can ultimately bring glory to God because God can bring good out of any bad situation (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). When trouble comes, do you grumble, complain, and blame God? Or do you see your problems as opportunities to honor him? Read the following verses and reflect on their significance for your life:

- Romans 5:3-5

For early Christians, trials and suffering were the rule rather than the exception. We rejoice in suffering, not because we like pain, but because we know God is using life's difficulties to develop our perseverance. Ask God for strength to deal with every difficulty.

- Hebrews 12:4-11

It is never pleasant to be corrected by hardships, but God uses them to discipline us. Trials of this kind are a sign of God's love. When hardships redirect our path, we must see them as proof of God's fathering care and discover what he wants to teach us.

- 1 Peter 1:6-7

All believers face trials. We must regard them as part of the refining process that burns away impurities and thereby prepares us to meet Christ.

- James 1:2-4

Trials develop strength of character in true disciples. Facing trials can help us grow to be mature and complete in our faith.

11:5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. This parenthetical statement serves two purposes: (1) it affirms Jesus' love for each member of the family, and (2) it serves to explain that it was not lack of love that kept Jesus from going to them. Humanly speaking, Jesus would have wanted to go to them immediately. But he was constrained by the Father's timing.

11:6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed

where he was two more days. Jesus would not be forced into action by these friends whom he loved dearly, any more than he would be forced by his mother (2:4) or his brothers (7:3–10). Everything he did was according to God’s timing alone. Lazarus had been dead for four days by the time Jesus arrived in Bethany (11:39). The messenger(s) must have taken a day to reach Jesus; Jesus waited for two days; then he took a day to reach Bethany. Therefore, Lazarus must have died shortly after the messenger(s) left Bethany. Jesus probably did not even receive the message about the illness until after Lazarus had died. Therefore, it was impossible for Jesus to have arrived in time to prevent Lazarus’s death.

WAIT CONTROL

Jesus loved this family and often stayed with them. He knew their pain but did not respond immediately. His delay had a specific purpose. God’s timing, especially his delays, may make us think he is not answering or is not answering the way we want.

But he will meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19) according to his perfect schedule and purpose. Often when we pray, circumstances seem to actually worsen. We are tempted to doubt and despair. But delay itself builds patience. Our patience improves as we trust in his timing.

** 11:7 Then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”* God’s time had come, so Jesus headed back into Judea to be with his dear friends in their sorrow. God’s timing is always perfect, whether in guiding his Son through his ministry on earth, or in guiding us today and answering our prayers.

Here, even knowing the grief and pain of his dear friends, Jesus waited two days and then returned to Judea. When the time came, Jesus did his Father’s will.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Sometimes we offer a passionate prayer of need, and God answers quickly. We are thankful and excited, and our faith is often strengthened. At other times it seems that God will never answer our prayers. We can’t understand, because we know

that we prayed for God's will. What should we do? We should wait in faith, knowing that God has our best interests in mind. We may never see our prayer answered in our lifetime; we may wait many years only to see God answer the prayer in another way altogether; we may find that God's final answer is no. Whatever the case, God's decision is best and his timing is right.

11:8-10 The disciples couldn't understand why Jesus would want to go into Judea again, when the Jews there just recently had been seeking to stone him (see 10:31ff.). Why leave a place where people believe in you and welcome you (10:42) to go back to certain death? But Jesus was not afraid, for he knew that he had to die and that his death would only occur in the Father's timing.

“Are there not twelve hours of daylight?” In response to the disciples' hesitation about returning to Judea, Jesus asked this startling rhetorical question. It had no immediate connection with the disciples' concern. But his answer made his point easier to remember.

The disciples' fears related to the limited sphere of human effort. They worried about what the Jewish leaders might do. Jesus pointed to an unlimited sphere—the sovereignty of God, who transcends the limits of time and over whom people have no control. As Jesus obeyed his Father, he was as confident about the victorious outcome as he was that every day contained twelve hours of daylight. We should remember that God's sovereignty extends to each moment of our life; otherwise, our trust in him will be limited to only those times when he meets our expectations. We will repeat the disciples' mistake—attempting to limit God to the sphere of human effort.

HOW DO TRIALS GLORIFY GOD?

- They develop our Christian character as we exercise patience (Romans 5:1-5), and they provide an example of strength, courage, and dependence on God to unbelievers.
- They wean us from life's attractions, diversions, and illusions as we focus on God for help.
- They reveal the flimsy grip we have on health and prosperity in this life, as we realize that we must trust in God for our security.
- They intensify our desire to be with God in eternity, where we will receive new bodies and be reunited with loved ones who have gone

before us.

- They provide opportunities to portray how God’s timing expresses his love to us. Many Christians who have faced calamity testified later how God’s timing showed them a new side to his love.

Jesus’ answer mentioned an expected number of “hours” during which work may be done. It also clearly implied that time would run out. After twelve hours of daylight the night comes. Our Lord’s “day” (his time on earth) was approaching its final hour. But Jesus still had tasks to accomplish, and he would not be sidetracked from his mission.

“Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.” The simple lesson of using daylight to get work done illustrates our deeper need to do spiritual work in the “light” of Jesus’ presence and God’s guidance. Jesus had already used the phrase “the light of the world” to refer to his own presence among people. While he was among them, he was their light (see 1:4; 8:12; 9:5). As long as they did their work in the light of Christ’s presence they would not stumble. Sadly, those who live in the dark, without the presence of Jesus’ light in them, will stumble.

THE BRIGHTER LIGHT

Jesus received his guidance from the highest source—the Father. The disciples were tempted to receive their guidance from the most immediate source—their circumstances. They worried about what they could “see” nearby; Jesus reminded them to walk by a brighter light. When making decisions, we should analyze our circumstances but not regard them as infallible guides. If we rely on our circumstances for guidance too much, we will walk in circles. Just as Jesus took charge of his day, we should take charge of our days. We need not rush around, frantically or fearfully trying to stay ahead of uncontrollable circumstances. Rather, we can ask for his help in making wise use of our available time and opportunities. Our first question should be: What would Jesus have me do?

11:11-15 “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples missed the meaning of

this euphemism for death (11:12–13; see also Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 15:20, 51; 1 Thessalonians 4:14). The disciples expressed their assumption that “if he sleeps, he will get better,” citing the restoring powers of a good sleep after an illness.

Jesus, realizing their failure to understand what he had said, went on to explain clearly: **“Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there.”** Lazarus died so that Jesus could show his power over death to his disciples and others. The raising of Lazarus displayed Christ’s power—the resurrection from the dead is a crucial belief of Christian faith. Jesus not only raised himself from the dead (10:18), but he also has the power to raise others.

Even at this point, the disciples still misunderstood Jesus’ claim to power over death although he had clearly stated this several times (all are from the NRSV):

- “Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes” (5:21).
- “This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day” (6:40).
- “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day” (6:54).
- “Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death” (8:51).
- “I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again” (10:17–18).
- “My sheep hear my voice.... I give them eternal life, and they will never perish” (10:27–28).

WAKE UP!

The disciples heard the word sleep and misunderstood Jesus’ intention to go there personally to awaken Lazarus from death. Only Jesus can refer to death as sleep because only he has power over death. From a human perspective, death is very real and final. People who call death

“sleep” are trying to soften the reality of death and keep the living from taking the issues of death and sin seriously.

For those who believe in the resurrection, death is merely sleep in comparison to eternal life. Those who do not believe need to wake up to Christ’s power while they still have the opportunity.

“Let us go to him.” Jesus made his intention clear. He would go to Judea, and he expected his disciples to go with him. Jesus had already indicated that he was anticipating their faith growing as a result of what would happen with Lazarus.

DELAYS

Measured by our timetable, many of our prayers’ answers may seem delayed. But knowing that we deal with a wise and loving God, we must consider that the problem may be with our timetable rather than God’s.

Though we experience delays, we can be sure that Jesus does initiate help for us. He will come to our aid. His help may well come in different ways and forms than we expect, but we can depend on his dependability! God will come to you in your time of need.

11:16 “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” We often remember Thomas as “the doubter” because he doubted Jesus’ resurrection (20:24–25). But he also loved the Lord and was a man of great courage. The disciples knew the dangers of going with Jesus to Jerusalem, so they tried to talk him out of it. Thomas merely expressed what all of them were feeling. When their objections failed, they were willing to go and even die with Jesus. They may not have understood why Jesus would be killed, but they were loyal. We may face unknown dangers in doing God’s work. It is wise to consider the high cost of being Jesus’ disciple.

“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality. A chastity or honesty or mercy which yields to danger will be chaste or honest or merciful only on conditions.”— C. S. Lewis

STEP OUT!

Thomas was ready to move out. Courage often boils down to trusting Jesus and moving out. Emotionally, the experience is much like the first time off a high dive or the first public speech. The stakes may be higher, but so are the benefits. We don't realize God's power until we take the first step. Thomas was the first to step out in faith. Sooner or later you too will have the opportunity to take a step of courage. And your step may motivate others to take action too. Ask God for the courage you need.

JESUS COMFORTS MARY AND MARTHA / 11:17-37

Although we get many glimpses of Jesus' compassion throughout the Gospels, his tender conversations with Mary and Martha are the most moving. His words reveal patient pastoral concerns. Elsewhere we see him confront people with the truth; here we see him console as the gentle Master.

Jesus did not ridicule or belittle grief. He affirmed our need for comfort by providing it to the sisters without hesitation. It is a tribute to the family that many from Jerusalem came to Bethany to pay their respects and offer their support to the sisters.

11:17-19 Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days by the time Jesus arrived (see comments on 11:6). In the warm climate of Palestine, a dead body would decompose quickly, so a person's body was often buried the same day of death. Four days places Lazarus well beyond what anyone might call a "near death" case. When Jesus and the disciples arrived in Bethany, many Jews from Jerusalem had gathered to console Lazarus's family, and some of those who had arrived were religious leaders. In Jewish society, prolonged mourning for the dead was considered an essential part of every funeral. It was convenient for many Jews to be there because Bethany was a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem (being less than two miles from Jerusalem).

Jesus Raises Lazarus. Jesus had been preaching in the villages beyond the Jordan, probably in Perea, when he received the news of Lazarus's sickness. Jesus did not leave immediately, but waited two days before returning to Judea. He knew Lazarus would be dead when he arrived in Bethany, but he was going to do a great miracle.

11:20-24 Martha ... went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. It was quite natural for Martha, as the older sister, to be the first to go out to meet Jesus when he arrived. In addition, she was the active person, who had busily prepared Jesus a meal (as described in Luke's Gospel; Luke 10:38-42). Mary, more contemplative, remained at home in mourning.

Upon seeing Jesus, Martha said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." This was a complaint and a plea. Martha probably realized that Jesus could not have arrived much earlier, but she was confident that Jesus' presence would have prevented Lazarus's death. Mary makes the same comment later (11:32). Despite their pain and sorrow, their faith in Jesus did not waver. The implication for us is that we should not quickly assume that God has let us down when we are in the midst of difficulties.

"But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Perhaps Martha thought Jesus would bring her brother back to life. But her reply in verse 24 and subsequent protests at the tomb (11:39) suggest otherwise. She did not realize, understand, or dare to hope that Jesus would ask God to give Lazarus back his physical life and be returned to his family. Instead, she reaffirmed her trust in his power even though she thought Jesus had missed an opportunity to display it by healing her brother.

When Jesus said, "**Your brother will rise again,**" she attributed it to the future resurrection— "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. At face value, Jesus' statement did little to console Martha, for she already knew that Lazarus would rise again in the resurrection and live eternally with God, just as she and Mary would when they died. At this point, resurrection was only a future, abstract concept to Martha, not a possible, immediate reality in Christ. But Jesus did not mean an eventual, distant resurrection, he meant that Lazarus would rise again that very day!

NEVER TOO LATE

Lazarus had been dead four days. How could Mary and Martha have imagined that they would soon be feasting with him and with Jesus (12:1-2)? But when Martha said "Even now" she was opening a door of faith wider than she could have anticipated. From the depth of her loss

and sorrow she clung in faith to Jesus. The eventual results were astonishing! There is always enough time for Christ to act. We must continue to trust in him.

11:25-27 “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” To the woman at the well (4:25-26), Jesus identified himself as the Messiah; to the ex-blind man (9:35-37), he disclosed himself as the Son of Man; but here he enlarged the picture by revealing himself as the source of resurrection life.

To understand Jesus’ statement, we need to see it in two parts. First, Jesus explained the resurrection: “I am the resurrection ... those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” Then he explained the life: “I am ... the life ... everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

The believer will not experience eternal death. Lazarus had been a believer in Jesus; therefore, even though he died, he would live. Every believer who has died will yet live, and everyone who is still living and believing will die, but not eternally. Christ did not promise the prevention of physical death; he guaranteed in himself to give abundant life, including resurrection and eternity with him. Christ did not prevent Lazarus’s physical death (after being raised, Lazarus would eventually die again), but Lazarus had the guarantee of eternal life.

Jesus himself is the resurrection and he is the life. Only through a relationship with him can we experience this resurrection and this life. Only one kind of life—the life of God (Ephesians 4:18)—is truly life. Only it can overcome death. Jesus is this life.

“I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” Martha is best known for being too busy to sit down and talk with Jesus (Luke 10:38-42), but here we see her as a woman of deep faith. Her statement of faith is exactly the response that Jesus wants from us. This confession presents a high point in John’s Gospel, for here we see a believer acknowledging that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. In recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, she saw him to be God’s envoy appointed to deliver God’s people; in recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, she saw his divinity.

YOU WILL LIVE!

Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because he is the Creator of life (see 14:6). He who is life can surely restore life. Whoever believes in Christ has a spiritual life that death cannot conquer or diminish in any way. When we realize Christ's power and how wonderful his offer to us really is, how can we help but commit our lives to him! Those who believe have wonderful assurance and certainty: "Because I live, you also will live" (14:19 NIV). Is Jesus the Lord of your life?

11:28-32 She went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

Martha spoke to Mary secretly so that the visiting Jews would not follow her to where Jesus was—somewhere outside the village. However, when Mary arose quickly to go to Jesus, she was followed by the mourners.

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Mary repeated Martha's statement (11:21). They were both convinced that Jesus would have been able to do something had Lazarus still been living. But they had no idea that death might be reversible.

11:33-36 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. The Greek word for "deeply moved" can mean "intensely agitated." Jesus may have been agitated by the excessive sorrow of the mourners, by Martha and Mary's limited faith, or by the general unbelief. Even more so, Jesus was angry at the power of death, man's ultimate enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Jesus wept. Among the commotion and the loud wailing of the mourners, Jesus shed tears. What made Jesus cry? Was it his love for Lazarus? Was it the presence of sadness and death? Or was it the faithless grief that surrounded him? For whatever the reason, the situation caused Jesus to shed some tears. The picture of Jesus as being impassive in the face of genuine human suffering is not consistent with the picture in Isaiah, which describes him as a "man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering" (Isaiah 53:3 NIV).

JESUS WEPT

Several views have been put forth to explain Jesus' weeping. The most common are as follows:

- Jesus wept in sympathy for the ones he loved who were grieving.
- Jesus wept for all people who grieve over the death of loved ones.
- Jesus wept over the frailty of life and the ravages of sin and despair.
- Jesus wept in anger over those present who remained in unbelief in the face of death.
- Jesus wept in sorrow for having to call Lazarus back from eternity into a world where he would die again.

Tears, however, are not self-explanatory; and since Jesus chose not to explain them, we are left with a variety of possibilities for what he might have felt.

The Jews' interpreted Jesus' tears as a sign of Jesus' great love for Lazarus: "See how he loved him!" They assumed that Jesus wept in frustration and sorrow that he had not arrived earlier in order to heal Lazarus. But we know that Jesus purposely waited until Lazarus had died before going to Bethany (11:14-15).

WITH FEELING

John stresses that we have a God who cares. This portrait contrasts with a Greek concept of God that was popular in John's day—a God with no emotions and no empathy for humans. Here we see many of Jesus' emotions—compassion, indignation, sorrow, even frustration. He often expressed deep emotion, and we must never be afraid to reveal our true feelings to him. He understands them, because he experienced them. Be honest, and don't try to hide anything from your Savior. He cares.

11:37 Following Martha and Mary, others also asked, "**Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?**" By directly quoting the crowd (who refer to Jesus' previous miracle—see 9:1ff.), John directed his readers to consider: "Can the one with power over disease and disablement have power to prevent death?" But this miracle creates deeper questions: "Can the one who raised Lazarus from the dead raise me?" and "What does the one with power over death want to do in my life right now?" Jesus' power to overcome death confirmed his power to give eternal

life to those still living. People are dead spiritually without Christ. But to those who trust him, Jesus gives eternal life now along with the power to live in obedience to him.

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD / 11:38-44

As this chapter opens, we see Mary, Martha, and the crowd expressing conditional belief in the power of Jesus. They believed that Jesus could have worked a miracle if Lazarus had still been alive. But death intervened, and they thought it was irreversible. Little did they know that what they considered impossible would soon be overcome by God's power.

11:38-39 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. John once again tells us that Jesus was deeply moved (see 11:33). Jesus' agitation reveals his indignation and outrage that death creates such destructive chaos and suffering in people's lives.

Lazarus was buried in a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Tombs at this time were usually caves carved in the limestone rock of a hillside. A tomb was often large enough for people to walk inside. Several bodies would be placed in one tomb. After burial, a large stone would be rolled across the entrance to the tomb. This burial spot was much like the one in which Jesus would be buried.

Jesus said to the crowd, "Take away the stone." When Jesus asked that the stone be removed, Martha protested, saying, "By this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." See comments on 11:6.

11:40 "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" The purpose of the whole event was for Jesus to exhibit the glory of God. Jesus had proclaimed this from the moment he heard about Lazarus's sickness (11:4). In order for the miracle to occur and for God to be glorified through it, the sisters would have to believe enough to order the stone to be removed from the tomb's entrance.

GOD LISTENS

Because of Jesus' constant interaction with his Father, we can surmise

that he had been praying about Lazarus for some time. Jesus was confident that his Father listened to him. His confidence, “I knew that you always hear me,” was expressed for our benefit. He wants us to believe, and he said so (11:42).

Our prayers are arrogant if we assume how God will answer. Our prayers are confident if we affirm that God listens. Our confidence comes not from what we pray or how we pray but to whom we pray. God does not require volume or repetition. The whispered simple prayer echoes in the halls of heaven as loudly as the lofty composition voiced in unison by thousands. God listens when you pray!

11:41-44 “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

While the crowd waited beside the tomb—with the stone now rolled away from its entrance—Jesus praised his Father aloud, publicly, so that, upon witnessing the miracle of resurrection, the people might believe in Jesus. His prayer was not a petition, but a prayer of thanks to the Father. Jesus knew that his request would be answered.

Jesus had to call out Lazarus by name for if he hadn’t, all the dead would have come out of their graves!

Augustine

He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” The voice of Jesus is potent and lifegiving. Lazarus provided proof of Jesus’ earlier words: “The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live” (5:25 NIV).

The dead man came out. Lazarus was completely wrapped in his graveclothes. There was no question that a dead man had come back to life. The miracle was not only Lazarus’s resuscitation. After four days, the body would have seriously decayed. Lazarus’s body was raised and restored.

The wailing of grief transformed into gasps of shock and shouts of joy. Even the reticent Mary rushed to her brother. The funeral atmosphere became a joyful party. Perhaps in their excitement over his appearance the people forgot to free him from the burial wraps.

UNWRAP SESSION

Jesus was and is the giver of life. He brings a second birth to those who are dead in sin. But his gift of forgiveness and the indwelling Spirit do not create instant, perfect Christians. We enter Christ's kingdom with many of the old wraps still around us. Old habits and sinful behaviors, painful memories—all these require gentle, loving removal. Like graveclothes, we no longer need them. We need fellow Christians and Christ's power to unwrap us. It is Jesus' command that our healing be complete. Who can you help "unwrap"?

Jesus told them, "Unbind him, and let him go." The power he had just used to return Lazarus to the living could have easily disintegrated or loosed the wraps without help. But Jesus involved those around him in the happy labor of unwrapping Lazarus. His powerful work was completed, but Lazarus needed a personal touch.

The Call to Action (John 11:43-44): Jesus calls Lazarus to come out of the tomb and then instructs others to take off his grave clothes. Reflecting on your own life, what areas do you feel God is calling you out of "death" and into "life"? How can you respond to Jesus' call, and what might be the "grave clothes" you need help being freed from?

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, Bruce B. Barton, John, Life Application Bible Commentary

Sermon Notes:

Supernatural Transformation is more than just Miracles themselves...

Supernatural Transformation is about Life...

Going in a New Way, a New Direction, the Old is Gone and the New has Come...

A Refreshing that says... I am not doing the same old same old anymore...

Jesus Christ is the Supernatural Superhero...If you desire change and revival that you've experienced, you must come to Jesus...

Some of you may be saying, I've tried Jesus

Let me **clarify**...Some of you have tried Jesus on...But Jesus is not a pair of jeans

You must put Jesus in your heart and invite him into your life...

I will guarantee you right now... Supernatural transformation will occur...

Jesus said to Lost Nicodemus: For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son that who ever believe it in him should not perish, but have everlasting life... John 3:16

Jesus told a Samaritan Women who had serious issues with relationships:

I am the Living Water of Life...John 4:10

Jesus told the hungry multitudes after feeding them with 2 fish & 5 loaves of bread: I am the Bread of Life...

John 4:50 & 5:5-8

Jesus healed the blind man and said: I am the Light of Life... John 8:12

Jesus proclaimed this to the religious leaders & crowds: The thief comes to Steal, Kill & Destroy... but I have come to give you Abundant Life... John 10:10

What does all of this have in common... what's the theme? Life, Life, Life

Jesus declared, "I am a God of the living and not of the dead"... Luke 20:38

There is one thing we can all relate to in this room... It's the pain of death from someone you dearly loved.

Over the 20 years I have been a Pastor ... there has been sudden deaths of multiple individuals that took my breath away...

Read this article- Death is Unpredictable:

"In 1948 the United Kingdom established the National Health Service... A Socialized Medical System for all cities. One day a guy named Alan Campbell fell ill and needed to see a specialist for what he had going on... So, he picked up the phone and called the NHS. The operator on the other end of the phone asked him for his name... and of course he replied, Alan Campbell. She said I am sorry Mr. Campbell

but you're dead. Dead! He exclaimed... you can clearly hear me talking to you so how can I be dead? She said, sorry sir for your death and insisted he would need to return to his General Practitioner to prove he was alive... (Tim Moynihan- "Your Dead Patient")

For us... Death seems so final... it's the end...
Conversations end with death... Friendships... Relationships & Love...

Some deaths are expected, and some deaths are sudden... No matter the circumstances they all hurt...

When my mom passed away, we decided to have a Memorial Service at a later date...

I contacted my Uncle Bruce who had been a Pastor for most of his life to officiate the service...

My mom's memorial was March 19, 2021 and little did I know 10 months later I would be officiating my Uncle Bruce's Service after he passed...

Outside of Jesus' Disciples he had some pretty close friends...

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were brother & sisters who hosted Jesus at their home in Bethany on several occasions...

In Today's Main Text we will see an unexpected death meets Jesus face to face...

Allow me to set the stage as we get into this Supernatural Story in John 11

"Bethany was a village just outside of Jerusalem. One would argue that this small village was Jesus' home base of Ministry. Jesus spent a considerable amount of time with a family known as Mary, Martha, and Lazarus... beloved friends of his. Some sort of severe illness suddenly struck Lazarus... and he became so ill that his sisters sent messengers to Jesus to ask him to come for a visit. However, before Jesus arrived Lazarus died, and Jesus wept."

Read John 11: 1-44

William Gurnael said this: "Let thy hope of heaven master thy fear

of death. Why shouldst thou be afraid to die, who hopest to live by dying

Devotional Questions

Read the powerful story of Lazarus in John 11:1-44 and engage and answer the questions below.

1.Reflecting on Jesus' Timing and Our Trust (John 11:4-6): When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. How does Jesus' decision to wait, knowing the eventual outcome would glorify God, challenge your understanding of trust and patience in God's timing in your own life?

2.Jesus' Emotions and Our Responses (John 11:33-36): Jesus was deeply moved and wept at Lazarus' tomb. What does Jesus' emotional response to Lazarus' death and the mourning of others tell you about how God feels about human suffering? How does it impact your perception of bringing your own sorrows and struggles to Him?

3.The Power of Belief (John 11:25-26): Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" How does this declaration from Jesus' challenge or affirm your understanding of eternal life and the significance of belief in Christ?

4.The Glory of God in Jesus' Actions (John 11:40): Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" In what ways have you witnessed the glory of God in your own life or in the lives of others through acts of faith and belief? How does this story inspire you to trust in God's plans, even when they are not immediately clear?

5.Prayer and Relationship with God (John 11:41-42): Before Jesus raises Lazarus, He prays to the Father, demonstrating His relationship with God and acknowledging that the miracle serves to help others believe. How does Jesus' example inform your understanding of prayer and its role in your relationship with God and in witnessing to others?

