

## **The End: A Great Place to Start** **Dead**

John 11:17-27

*“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death & taxes.” Benjamin Franklin (Letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy in 1789)*

**Today, we are going to look an incredible story from the Bible about Lazarus:**

- **Jesus’ Close Friend was Sick**
- **Jesus Delays the 2-Day Trip**
- **Lazarus Dies & Jesus arrives 4-days later**
- **Jesus Speaks to Martha & Mary**
- **Jesus Tells them to Open the Tomb**
- **Jesus Does the Unthinkable...**

*“He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out.’ The man who had died came out, his hands & feet bound with linen strips, & his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, & let him go.’” John 11:43b-44*

**Main Idea:** When I am facing Death, I must Remember that Jesus is Life!

### **Three Things to Remember about Life & Death...**

#### **I. Everybody has an Appointment with Death –**

*“Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha & Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went & met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’” John 11:17-22*

*“Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’” John 11:21*

*“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, & that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31*

*“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, & after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:27-28*

#### **II. Faith is the Dividing Line between Life & Death**

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’” John 11:23-24*

**The Disciples Needed Faith:** *“Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus has died, & for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 11:14-15*

**The Family Needed Faith:** *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection & the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, & everyone who lives & believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’...Now when Mary came to where Jesus was & saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, & the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit & greatly troubled...Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?’” John 11:25-26, 32-33, 40*

**Everyone Needed Faith:** *“So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes & 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.’” John 11:41-42*

#### **III. There is Something Far Worse than Death & Even Better Than Life**

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection & the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, & everyone who lives & believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’” John 11:25-27*

*“Lazarus was dead, & all sinners are dead...Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of God, & all who trust Christ have been given new life & lifted from the graveyard of sin.” Warren Wiersbe*

*“And you were dead in the trespasses & sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 2:1-2*

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – & raised us up with him & seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-7*

**Dead in our Sins is Worse than Death & Alive in Christ is better than Looking Alive, Feeling Alive & Being Physically Alive! Jesus is Better!!!**

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

**Jesus is Better than Life!!!**

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...” Psalm 23:4a*

*“For to me to live is Christ, & to die is gain.” Philippians 1:2*

#### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- Strong’s Concordance – James Strong (1890)
- Tony Evans Book of Illustrations – Tony Evans (2009)
- Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- New Bible Commentary – Carson, France, Motyer & Wenham (1994)
- Bible Knowledge Commentary – Walvoord & Zuck, (1985)
- New American Commentary – John 1-11 – G.L. Borchert (1996)
- Tyndale Bible Dictionary – Comfort & Elwell (2001)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – Archibald T. Robertson (1933)
- Daily Bible Study Series: The Gospel of John – William Barclay (1976)

