

## John 11:38-46 | Lazarus Come Forth

### The Hidden Treasure and the Costly Pearl

Matthew 13:44-45 'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

Pastoral Prayer.

Responsive Reading:

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon Text.

John 11:38-46 'So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Remove the stone.' Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a stench for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done."

Intro.

Single point – Jesus raises dead people to life.

This story of Lazarus being dead is steeped in spiritual illustrations. The chief illustration being that there is a man that is dead and He is given life from Jesus Christ.

It is a **motif about salvation**. Given this story of the dead man that is resurrected is a motif of salvation, there are some obvious take aways that I just want to highlight upfront:

**Lazarus is dead.** Lazarus, at the end of this passage, is alive. **Q:** Did Lazarus do anything to make himself alive? Did Lazarus somehow cooperate with God and as a result receive life as opposed to all of the other people in tombs around Lazarus that are just not in cooperation with God/Christ?

Quote from a man in the church 'Christ didn't come to make bad men, good but instead to make dead men, alive.' And that's the truth.

That's what happens with Lazarus. Lazarus goes from being dead to being alive. **Q:** What role does Lazarus play? Notice, no one believes in Lazarus. Lazarus is just a testimony of Jesus' work. Notice, no one is divided over Lazarus.

**Proof of Life.** When a person is dead or possibly dead, there are a few things you can do to check for proof of life. Is the **chest raising**, is their breath coming in and out of the lungs. If you press the **cuticles on their fingers**, is there any capillary re-fill, showing blood flow to the extremities. They used to show us in the army if you are **searching a dead body** on an objective to **flick a person in the eye** in attempt to get a response.

The reason you would flick them in the eye is because sometimes people would play dumb. They would play possum. They would play dead to deceive you. Well, Lazarus isn't playing dead.

Lazarus is good and dead. He's been good and dead for 4 days. And at this point His body stinks.

What we have today is something that is an impossibility, proof of life, after 4 days of death.

How do we have life now? How could Jesus perform this resurrection?

There is one main question that I want to explore all the way through this passage and it's this; How Does Jesus Resurrect Lazarus?

**We know where** He does it. – they are just outside of Jerusalem in a small town called Bethany.  
**We know when** He does it. – this is just one week away from Jesus' crucifixion on the Passover.  
**We know WHY** he does it; He says that He does this for the glory of God so that the Son of God might be glorified and many would come to believe in Him.

BUT, we have not addressed **HOW he does it?** How does Jesus resurrect Lazarus and what is the point of the miracle?

Now with this, there are all kinds of questions that can be raised.

### **Potential Questions:**

How do we know this wasn't a staged event to build popularity around Jesus?

Did Lazarus go to heaven during this 4 day period? We know the Bible says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. The intermediate state.

Did Lazarus actually die or was he just in a coma? Skeptics always attempt to develop theories around ways to explain away the work of Christ.

What about

### **HOW Does Jesus resurrect Lazarus?**

How? How does this happen? If you want an answer you've got to straight to the source.

People could give all kinds of answers today to something like this.

Someone that is into **alternative medicine** could say, Well don't you know that laying on cold stones is good for your health, it can thin out the blood and increase bloodflow. OR well you could give someone epiphenphren and the shot of adrendeline could bring a person back to life. If you're into **conspiracy theories**, you could claim that a secret society has developed a plan to thwart the Jews and overthrow the established religion.

**If you're into conservative politics** maybe you think this is the final event to give Jesus enough credibility to create a ground-swell of popularity to where He can be the Savior of the structural, governmental problems of the age. An event like this could serve to establish a grass roots populace movement that would even overthrow the Romans.

OR, if you have faith in God you realize there is one answer to this question.

**HOW Does Jesus resurrect Lazarus?** It is by one thing: 1. By the power of His Word and the result of the Holy Spirit. – and those two things are always working in unison.

When God's Word is interjected into a situation the whole situation is now shaped by those very words.

Please turn to Genesis 1.

### **The Creation Account**

1:3 '**God said**, 'let there be light'

1:5 '**God called/said** 'the light day, and called/said darkness, night'

1:6 '**God said**, 'let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters'

1:9 '**God said**, 'let the waters below and the heavens be gathered into one place'

1:11 '**God said**, 'let the earth sprout vegetation'

1:14 '**God said**, 'let there be lights in the expanse'

1:20 '**God said**, 'let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth'

1:22 '**God blessed them, saying/said** 'be fruitful and multiply'

1:24 '**God said**, 'let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind'

1:26 '**God said**, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness'

1:28 'God blessed them, and **God said to them**, 'Be fruitful and multiply'

1:29 '**God said**, 'Behold...'

When God says something it changes things. It creates. It establishes precedence.

In a court room there is legal precedence for a case. How things might go based off historic legal precedence.

In the order of the world, the precedence is that God said so. Because of what God said, that is what will be.

How is Lazarus resurrected? Because God said so. **‘Lazarus come forth.’**

**When God’s Spirit is combined in the working of His word, the situation is unstoppable.**

Gen. 41:38 ‘Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find a man/Joseph like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?’ – Could you imagine today if we had people in gov’t that we saved?

Gen. 31:3/35:31 ‘I have filled him/Bezalel with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship’ – The Spirit of God is the ‘It-factor’, working and living in the power of the Spirit of God is difference between working for God and doing dead works.

Num. 11:25 ‘the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him/Moses, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders’ – these men were incapable of helping Moses until God had placed His Spirit upon them. All they could do was grumble and complain, until God placed His Spirit upon them.

Num. 24:2 ‘Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him...blessed is everyone who blesses you, and cursed is everyone who curses you’ – and Balak’s anger burns against Balaam. Balaam who had been enlisted to curse the Israelites under Balak’s leadership is incapable of doing so because of the Spirit of God coming upon him. Balaam was given a number of oracles from God in this experience, a key take-away being ‘the people of God, those people whom **God’s spirit has fallen upon, cannot be cursed!**

**Let me put that another way;**

**John 11:25 “Jesus said to her/Martha, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die”**

**Why does a person die?** Sin. The wages of sin is death.

**What is death?** It is the result of sin, the curse over the whole world. Lazarus didn’t die because of some particular sin he had committed. **INSTEAD**, ‘he who believes in Jesus’ even though He dies, he lives.’s

In the book of Judges there is a series of events where the Spirit of God falls on a number of people.

Jud. 3:10 ‘The Spirit of the LORD was upon him/Othniel’ – God through the power of His Spirit gave him victory in war over the king of Mesopotamia

Jud. 6:34 ‘The Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon’ – the result was a great victory

1 Sam. 10:6 ‘Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightly, and you shall prophesy with them and be **changed into another man.**’ – changed into another man, but Saul was not born-again, Saul was not converted, but because the Spirit came upon him he was immediately changed.

1 Sam. 11:5 ‘What is the matter with the people that **they weep?**’ v.6 ‘**the Spirit of God came upon Saul** mightly when he heard these words, and he **became very angry**’ – notice the parallel between the weeping of the people in John 11 and the indignation of Jesus. The people are

weeping as if there is no hope, Jesus is indignant in His Spirit/He is deeply moved/He is troubled because of their unfaithfulness.

The person that the word of God works in the **Spirit of God changes that person**. They are not the same person. Look at Lazarus, he is dead, then he is alive.

When the word of God works in a person it works in conjunction with the Spirit of God.

How is Lazarus raised from the dead? It is by the word of God! The power of the Holy Spirit works through the word of God.

Look at this transition from the power that Saul had to the power that Saul lost.

1 Sam. 16 'Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.' – Why because Saul had disobeyed God with a foolish oath. Saul sought mediums and spiritists, the witch of Endor. Saul was moved with jealousy. Saul was rebellious. All as the result of the

The Power of God's Spirit in the Bible.

When God speaks things happen.

There are people that come to believe in Jesus and there are people that are divided over Jesus.

### **Division over Jesus in John.**

John 7:43 'there was a division among the people over him'

John 9:16 'how can a man who is a sinner do such signs? And there was a division among them'

John 10:19 'again a division was caused among the Jews because of His words'

A division occurs over who Jesus is and over His work. A schism. A great divide occurs over the person and work of Christ.

No one is divided over Lazarus. No one is divided over the blind man, or the

1 Cor. 1:10 'let there be no divisions among you'

1 Cor. 11:18 'I hear that there are divisions among you'

**No divisions.** Unity around the person and work of Christ.

If you're going to be divided with someone then be divided over the person and work of Christ.

v. 38 'So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.'

**Q: Why is Jesus troubled? Why is Jesus groaning inside?**

Deeply moved within. Groaning. Jesus is moved with indignation.

Why is Jesus moved so deeply inside? What is it that is causing Jesus to be bothered?

**There is a contradiction** that is taking place spiritually. I covered this in detail last week, the contradiction is a matter of idolatry.

The divisions that occur, occur over deep-seeded idolatry.

People become deeply moved internally based off the convictions of their heart and mind.

In **Mark 14:5/John 12** **'they were scolding her'** for using the perfume that could have been used and been sold for \$300 denari and given to the poor. And Jesus says to them 'leave her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. Judas scolds her, Judas is deeply moved internally for all the wrong reasons.

We see this happen in the next chapter in John 12. Judas asks with a scolding question, but his internal motives are corrupt.

Judas is a betrayer and he is a corrupt person. Judas is an idolatrous coward. And Jesus knows this.

Jesus is deeply moved internally for all the right reasons. Jesus is disturbed for all of the right reasons.

**Why is Jesus moved so deeply?** Why is Jesus indignant toward much of the response that He is received?

Lest we forgot, just a week prior many of these people were on the **bandwagon of attempting to stone Him** in John 10 for His, Good Shepherd discourse.

In **Mark 1 and Mark 9**, Jesus gives a stern warning (the same word used here) to the disciples that they would not reveal to the people who He actually is.

Mark 1:43 'Jesus sternly charged him'

Mark 9:30 'Jesus sternly warned them, see that no one knows about it'

It is a scary reality, but a reality none the less, that Jesus has **revealed Himself to the extinct** that willing heart can believe, and He has **concealed Himself to the extinct** that a rebellious heart can disbelieve.

Even here: **Q: Why does Jesus pray out loud?** So that they would come to believe. Do they? Some do, some don't.

**For some**, it leads to worship, for others it leads to war. For some the work of Christ establishes conviction, for others, it establishes conspiracies and councils to kill Him.

**Convictions demonstrate worship.** Whatever deeply moves a person internally demonstrates who their God is.

For example, if you insulted an individual person they will be moved with the upmost of indignation, but if you misrepresent the Gospel, they could care less.

**Q:** Why is it that Jesus is still so deeply moved inside? Why is He groaning?

I covered this is significant detail last week, that Jesus groans over sin. Jesus is deeply disturbed by the sin of the world.

And it leads me to a next obvious question: As Christians, are we deeply moved, are we internally disturbed, do we groan over the sin that our very Savior died for?

Turn to Ez. 9. Ez. 9:1-10, The Vision of Slaughter.

#### **The Vision of Slaughter and The Marking of those who Groan.**

Ez. 9:4 'The LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, even through the midst of Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations** which are being committed in its midst."

Groaning over the sins of the age is a **proof of life in Christ**. Because **unconverted people** could care less.

You have to understand that these prophetic signs and visions are not far off. These things are not far away and irrelevant to us. Just as God is with us today, God is the same today as He was yesterday, and the truth of this vision is as true today as it was yesterday. It is timeless!

**God is timeless.** God is eternal. With God 1 day is, as if 1000. In other words, with God time stands still. He is pre-immanent.

**To us**, we base things off time. Time becomes an asset and a resource we see as something we must management. For God, time is merely a component of the endless, millions of circumstances that He coordinates to His individual good will and pleasure.

**When we look at prophecy**, or we look at anything in the Bible, these things are just as relevant then as they are now, because God's will is just as relevant then as it is now.

The **groaning over the sins** of our age, is a sign, both an internal and external proof of your position in Christ. It is a **proof of life**.

**God hates sin.** There has been this **cute idea** established in our age through the statement ‘hate the sin but love the sinner’ – the trouble with that is that God doesn’t send the sin to Hell for eternity, God sends the sinner to Hell for eternity. s

So as a result, **the sinner needs to learn to weep over their sin.** The sinner needs to see themselves as a sinner. They do not need to think in metaphysical terms and separate their sin from their personal identity.

**Q:** Why is it that people cry at funeral? Why is it that we are pensive about pain for our loved ones?

It is because we know **intuitively the effects of sin.** The effects of sin are ultimately death. And the effects of sin result in weeping.

**HOWEVER,** though death and sickness and affliction will visit us all, it can visit us not for death, but instead for the glory of GOD!

Don’t let your mind get caught up on cute, fanciful notions that attempt to change God’s judgment against abominations. God doesn’t change.

Instead, like Christ, sigh and groan over them, because that is the very recognition of those who He marks as saved.

We actually can see in **this motif of salvation**, that they sigh, the groaning, the intense movement against sin, is a **recognition of repentance.**

Not that Jesus needs to repent, but instead, that all salvation, and all life in Christ, is first predicated on repenting from sin.

The wages of sin is death. Lazarus is dead. But as we know, Lazarus is not dead because of some individual wrong he has done, INSTEAD, Jesus already told us why Lazarus died

John 11:4 ‘this sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.’

**What glorifies Christ?** It glorifies Christ to save people that are dead in their sin.

Lazarus is dead, not because of individual sin, but because of the effects of sin upon all people. It gives God glory and it gives Christ glory to raise Him from the dead.

What greater glory could Christ have then to be **singularly attributed as the person** who paid the price and took the penalty for our sin, even to death, Himself!



Sin is the most pressing problem in all the world and Christ is the single solution to this pressing problem. **What gives Christ glory?**

**Saving sinners is what gives Christ glory!** Taking people, dead in sin, and making them alive, forgiven, washed clean, is what gives both God the Father and Jesus Christ great glory.

**Is. 1:18** 'Come now, and let us reason together, though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.'

**Why does Jesus weep?** Why is Jesus internally moved? Many of these people continue to refuse and rebel.

The Israelites, and for that matter a vast remainder of the world, did not see Christ as the Messiah.

In Isaiah 22, Isaiah receives a vision from God, an oracle, and He weeps bitterly because they people continue to be unrepentant. They think repentance is an option. They think repentance is a trivial topic to joke about.

#### **Valley of Vision**

**Is. 22:4, 16** 'let me weep bitterly, do not try to comfort me concerning the destruction of the daughter of my people...what right do you have here, and whom do you have here, that you have hewn a tomb for yourself here, you who hew a tomb on the height, you who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock? Behold, the LORD is about to hurl you headlong, O man!'

In this very passage Jesus weeps, almost as if weeping on their behalf.

#### **The Garden of Gethsemane**

**Matt. 26:36-38** 'Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be **grieved and distressed**. Then He said to them, "**My soul is deeply grieved**, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

Jesus groaning and weeping in the Garden before His death.

The weight of sin and death is upon Jesus. It causes Him to be distressed.

#### **Jesus' burial.**

it was a cave, and a stone lying against it.

It was a normal custom to hewn out the side of a hill to bury people and would seal the dead people with a stone.

**v. 39 'Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.'**

There was a stone that was placed over a tomb. Jesus tells them to Remove the stone.

The stone is there for a reason. We saw two weeks ago that a proper burial was required in order to obey God and not defile the land.

Placing Lazarus in the tomb is an act of obedience.

There will be a stench. When a person dies their body goes through a series of decomposition. The heart stops pumping, the brain stops sending impulses through the nervous system. Oxygen stops flowing in and out of the lungs.

Because of this the body begins to rot. This rotten lifeless body is without any life or functioning.

This is the state of being for every person who is not in Christ. For every person not born again of God, not born from above, not regenerated to new life, not obedient to God. For every person, not mentally cognizant of God's will, of every person not mentally grasping the Gospel. To every heart not pumping the affections of love for Christ. This is the state of that person; they are spiritually dead.

The person that has not been saved by the work of Christ is spiritually lifeless. They have no spiritual life.

They cannot hear Christ. They cannot see Christ. Therefore, they cannot believe Christ. Because they cannot believe Christ, they cannot know Christ. In not knowing Christ, they cannot obey Christ. In not obeying Christ, they cannot be transformed by Christ. As a result, they are lifeless. Dead.

**Eph. 2:1 'you were dead in your trespasses and sins'**

They are dead because they transgress God's law, and because they transgress God's law they are dead.

**BUT, Eph. 2:4 'God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He has loved us, has made us alive in Christ even though we were dead in our trespasses, by grace we are saved'**

Look at ch. 12 about the transition from the stench to the perfume.

The Jews did not embalm bodies like the Egyptians. Draining it of its fluids and mummifying the body. Instead the Jews merely put spices and perfumes on the body in an attempt to reduce some of the stench.

But this is the stench of every person that is dead in their sin. They live a life of separation and hostility toward God. They do not know God. They do not search for God.

**Rom. 3:11 'there is no one who seeks God'**

God must work through His word and in the action of that give life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**v. 40 'Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?''**

If you believe, you will see the glory of God. If you believe in Christ, you will see the glory of God throughout all of your life.

If you can s

**Q: How Did Jesus actually raise Lazarus from the dead?**

**Jesus' prayer.**

**v. 41-42 'So they removed the stone, Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.**

Jesus prays. Jesus prays outloud for a specific reason. So that they people would believe.

Jesus says this prayer to God outloud so that people around Him would recognize His direct relationship to God.

**The outline of Jesus' prayer.**

He addresses God directly.

He thanks God. He thanks God for what God has always done and what God will continue to do.

Jesus thanks God that He hears Him. Jesus thanks God for listening to His prayer. Jesus does this outloud to give credit to God. Giving God glory for the action that is about to take place.

**IN this prayer,** Jesus sets a precedence for recognizing God in all of our ways.

**The purpose of Jesus' prayer.**

Is that people would believe. Jesus wants people to come to faith in Him. He is praying to God but in essence He is praying for these people.

These people that He is deeply moved and troubled by. These people who still don't believe despite a miracle.

In John 17 Jesus prays for all of the disciples in the world. An eternal prayer from His eternal words.

### **Jesus' prayer for the disciples in the world.**

John 17:13-21 'I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. (It brings God pleasure to see His church unified around what is right. It brings life to those who are dead when His church is unified around what is right.) I have given them Your word; and **the world has hated them**, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (You can only serve God or man, if you serve God, man will hate you, if you serve man, you will be in hostility to God, choose today whom you will serve. They are not of the world – Christ's disciples are **born from above**, there is a Divine calling on the Christians life. There is Divine ownership. Man's code is not the code of the Christian.

### **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (God's word is the truth that sanctifies)**

As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may **be sanctified in truth**.

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those who **believe in Me through their word**; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.'

Jesus those who are His disciples now to believe in His.

### **The outcome of Jesus' prayer.**

#### **v. 43 'When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."**

Lazarus come forth. An individual person received an individual command from Jesus Christ.

But not just any person, a dead person. A person who has no ability to hear. A person that cannot think, or look, or move.

Jesus commands a dead person to come out of their tomb.

What is the spiritual state of every person before Jesus calls them to salvation?

This is spiritual state of every person that has not come to believe in Christ.

Every person who does not believe in Christ is spiritually dead.

Jesus says in John 11:25 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'

I was at a pastor's gathering this past week and the man leading the meeting asked, what is the biggest problems at your church? People said, volunteers, giving, petty differences etc.

I didn't say anything, but that isn't their problem. Their problem isn't volunteers, giving, petty differences or whatever else. The problem is the people are not saved. They are unregenerate.

An unregenerate church can die from a 1000 different diseases. It's like spiritual AIDs. The disease is that the people are wordly. They are always concerned with matters that have nothing to do with the kingdom.

They are not focused on adding to the kingdom and sanctifying those in the kingdom.

The trouble is these people at churches many times are simply not saved.

Some of them might be saved but they are on spiritual life support. Some of them couldn't make their way out of the spiritual ICU.

You've got some people that are in the Spiritual NICU because they haven't been embraced by a spiritually strong church that can nurture the Christian faith.

Some of them are **spiritually braindead** and have no spiritual discernment to be kept from the evil one.

Some of them are so spiritually dead that they are blind spiritually.

Some cannot hear spiritually.

Some are **immobilized spiritually**, spiritually they are unable to serve and give and connect with other people because they are bound up in past legalistic tendency that inhibit spiritual agility.

These types of people have no joy, no solutions, they're always grumpy and its easy to see it on their face.

All because they are dead. They are not alive in Christ.

We cannot be an unregenerate church. But the work of Regeneration is always a work of Christ.

Every church is in one of these phases of life.

### **The Order of Salvation/Ordo Salutis**

**Dead/Not Saved** – living a life in hostility to God

**Regeneration (Lazarus)** – the call of Christ, new life/re-birth

**Conversion (Nicodemus)** – a changed life, turned/repented from the world

**Justification (Paul)** – right with God on the merit of Christ, not works

**Adoption (Family Member)** – an active member of the family of God, active in church life

**Sanctification or Apostasy (Like Christ or Like world)** – growing through the challenges of life or succumbing to the world, falling away

**Perseverance (continues in Christ)** – continuing to persevere through the crosses of this life

**Glorification (Heaven)** – eternal glory with God and Christ and our church family in Heaven.

**Where is our church on this list?** What is the predominate status of our church?

It doesn't matter the size of a church; big or small. It doesn't matter the appearance of the church; bright or dim, or nice looking or drab. What matters is the spiritual state of that church.

What is the **state of spiritual matters** in that church? Is it spiritually dead? Is it regenerated, is their new life?

Are the church a group of unsaved people, spiritually dead who gather together for social purposes?

Are we a group of people that have been regenerated, born-again?

Do we have new life in Christ **or are we the same** we have always been?

Do people see a change in the people of that church? Is that church different from the world or is it like the world but happens to meet on Sundays? Has the church been converted?

Does the church realize how we have been converted, justified by Christ? That the practice of our faith is by faith not by organized dead religion?

Is the church a functioning family? Does the church operate in a body of believers serving significant functions? OR, does the church have rebellious people in the family, people who refuse to cooperate and actively disobey and rebel?

DO we have people who claim to be in the family but they refuse to be peaceful and they cause problems?

Are those people in the family being sanctified **OR** are they in danger of falling away? Will they succumb to the powers of Satan and be enticed by the world **OR** will they remain in the family of Christ?

Are we persevering until the

Lazarus has been regenerated. He was dead, now He is alive.

Our church, and your individual life is in one of these phases of life.

A person might ask, **how long would** I be at any given stage? I don't know. How long does God do any given thing?

**How long does it** take God to grow an oak tree? How long does it take God to teach a person a lesson? **How long will a person hold** on to the vestigages of a past life and self-pride and past sin?

God can do things in an instant and God can do things over time. Each according to God's will and God's wisdom.

**Looking at a list like this**, you see that there are people who are struggling with the pressing reality of impending death and there are people that are living in the reality that they are already dead.

There are people that are spiritually alive that will soon die and there are people that are spiritually dead and we are wondering if by God's power will He give them new life in Christ?

v. 25 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'

Did you know that there are people that think they are saved but they are?!

People that are deceived. They have a false assurance.

These are often the people that are the most troublesome.

v. 44 'The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**Q: How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the grave?** it is by the power of His word! By the power of Jesus word Lazarus is brought to life.

Lazarus hears the command of Christ and now his mind thinks.

Lazarus can see the reality of Christ because he hears the words of Christ.

Lazarus' heart beats because he hears the words of Christ that give him hope and new life.

Blood flows through the body of Lazarus because of the very words of Christ.

IF Christ does not speak, Lazarus does not live.

**Q: Why does Jesus have the believers move the stone and unwrap the man that has been raised in new life?**

Because the church is supposed to do what they church can do and the church depends on Christ to do what only Christ can do.

Christ is the only figure that can give new life. Christ is the only figure that can resurrect a person that is dead.

But the other people there can participate in the process.

**They can remove the stone. They can unwrapp their brother.**

The man who died came forth.

Resurrection.

Power over life and death.

Stephen Charnock's The Power of God. The Existence and Attributes of God.

**v. 45-46 'Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.'**

### **Kids/Small Group Questions**

1. Why does Jesus have the people move the stone and unwrap Lazarus? God gives us the ability and purpose to do what we can do and we believe God to do what He can do.
2. What is the spiritual state of every person who does not believe in Christ? They are spiritually dead in all respects.
3. How does Jesus raise Lazarus from the grave? The power of His word. Ref. Gen. 1 the account of creation.
4. How do we see God's glory by placing our faith in Christ?

Email

John 11:38-46 | Lazarus Come Forth 'In this passage, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. It is a resurrection by the power of Jesus' command to come forth. Follow along in this sermon as we see the power of God through Jesus Christ and His word. We see that all who believe in Him will see the glory of God.'