

John 11:1-44

**Big idea:** If there is no Resurrection, life collapses into despair, but because there *is* resurrection, everything changes.

**Two Worlds**

We all know why we're here. You know what's coming. Even if you are skeptical of Christianity, the church, or even this special day, you know what it is all about. I want to begin by asking you a question...**Q: What if Easter never happened?** What if resurrection was just a nice idea? What if the stone never rolled away?

**John 11 – The Setting**

Lazarus is sick. In a world without resurrection, this is the beginning of the end. Everything hinges on healing. Everyone's hope rests in getting better. There is no other option, no other alternative. Lazarus *must* get better. Everyone had heard about the healing powers of Jesus. He is their best option, but He's too late.

**Mary and Martha**

*“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (v.21).* That's grief talking. Why did Jesus wait so long!? Those are words spoken in pain. Martha feels abandoned. She believes in healing, but she does not believe in the undoing of death. That's impossible.

**A World Without Resurrection**

- 1. **Life would be without meaning.** *“If only you had been here...” v.21.* Martha is grief stricken. Without resurrection, the only meaning possible in life comes from the people we love. Once they're gone, there is no meaning. If life ends at the grave, then everything shrinks. Why sacrifice? Why give? Why serve? Why forgive? Why endure hardship?
- 2. **We would handle death completely differently.** Mary and Martha's complete and total hope rested in Jesus getting to Lazarus sooner, not later. If there is no resurrection, we must cling to life! And let's be honest... If nothing follows life, then life itself is fragile and ultimately tragic. Birth becomes a slow walk toward extinction.

**“Lazarus, Come Out!”**

Jesus has accomplished the impossible. He has changed everything. And it all hinged on the claim He made about Himself in v.25... *“I am the resurrection and the life...”* Turns out, Resurrection is not an event; it is a Person.

- 1. **Death is defeated.** It still hurts. It still feels heavy. But it is temporary. The grave is now a doorway. For the Christ-follower, death is not termination. It is a transition.
- 2. **Life now has eternal weight.** If resurrection is real, every act of faith matters. Every sacrifice counts. Every prayer echoes into eternity. Suddenly obedience makes sense. Generosity makes sense. Because this world is *NOT* all there is.
- 3. **Grief is not hopeless.** We still cry. Jesus wept — and He knew resurrection was coming. But we grieve differently. Hope stands beside sorrow. Resurrection changes how we live and it changes how we die.

**Family Night – Read John 11:1-44**

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “Why did Jesus wait until Lazarus was dead to visit (v.15)? Why was Martha concerned about opening the tomb? What did Jesus call Himself in v.25? What did Jesus do for Lazarus?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “Do you believe in resurrection? Imagine a world without it; how would you be different? Why is resurrection critical to the Christian faith? What did Jesus prove at Easter?”

**Prayer:** “Father thank You for the Resurrection. We know that there is life after death. Amen.”

**Easter Sunday**

Welcome to our Easter Celebration! Please move to the middle of the row to create more seating. Thank you!

**No Velocity this Wednesday. No Gravity Today.**

**Easter Overflow**

The service is on the big screen next door in the Velocity Theater if you need a place to sit. You can also grab a chair in the lobby and watch on the TV out there.