

- Jesus raising Lazarus to life wasn't the first time that a person had been raised ... Elijah ([1Kings17](#)) and Elisha ([2Kings4](#)) ... Jesus: an only child of a mother ([Luke7](#)); the little girl ([Luke8](#)); Lazarus ([John11](#)) ... Peter raised Tabitha ([Acts9](#)) ... Paul raised Eutychus ([Acts20](#)) ... The story of Lazarus is different by the context: dead 4 days – body already starting decay ([vs39](#)) ... Burial customs followed ... Just as Jesus had said, so it came to be – [11:4, 23, 25](#)
- Martha encounters Jesus: don't read words of anger or rebuke or even unbelief ... [11:4](#) ... Though Martha mourns, her faith in who Jesus and what Jesus can do is persistent ... Anchored in Jesus – [11:27](#) ... Mary greets Jesus
- “Jesus wept” ... He weeps as a man; and He weeps as God ... Our sorrows and burdens and hardship do concern Him ... Though Lazarus will be raised to life, right now, Jesus is surrounded by the sound, smell, and somber reality of death ... Jesus weeps at the sight that death continues to be victorious ... Death is a reminder of sin's presence and penalty ... And sin is active because Satan still rules with conditional power ... Certainly, His own death and burial weigh heavy on Him ... For this is why He has come ... This is the battle He has come to endure, on our behalf and for our victory ...
  - He is not the one who death is victorious over ... We are the ones who death claims victory over ... Jesus endures death and burial not for His sake, but for ours ... We're the ones under the curse of sin and death, not Him ... Jesus is the curse-breaker, the sin-destroyer, the death-overcomer ... He is the resurrection and the life ... Because of His own love for you and me, He comes to our defense ... **Calvin**: “by a strong feeling of grief, and by tears, He shows that He is as much affected by our distresses as if He had endured them in His own person.” ... Calvin goes on to say that Jesus approaches the grave “as a champion who prepares for a contest” ... In a short time, the death of death will be secured ... Raising of Lazarus foreshadows this
- Jesus calls for stone to be removed ... The One by whom all of creation came into existence, speaks life into the grave, and a dead man is raised back to life ... Out from the grip of death, Lazarus comes forth ... His heart beats, ears hear, eyes see – everything works; no decay ... “Unwrap him” – 1) can't unwrap himself, 2) experience proof ... Some put their faith in Jesus ... Others remain unconvinced about Jesus ... In which camp do you reside?
- Thomas – [11:16](#) ... *If Jesus is going, so are we. And if He dies, let's die with Him* ... Words reveal a sincere faith, even if he doesn't fully understand the weight of what he's saying ... Deeper meaning known as events unfold ... [Ph1:21](#) ... *I want to live glorifying Christ and death ushers me into the glory of Christ* ... Christ is the end goal of both either way ... If a Christian's life won't end in death, is there anything to fear concerning the grave?
- Death is real, painful, unpredictable, doesn't show favoritism ... Glaring reminder of our mortality and our inability to reverse things ... There is nothing dismissive about death ... And, yet, for Christians, death is not something to fear ... In that it paralyzes your life, or causes you to pursue wrong objectives in life ... There's no fear in death because an actual Man stood in my place and willingly took upon Himself my punishment, my sin, my rebellion, my hatred, my idolatry – all my sin and all the just wrath my sin earned ... And He endured my death ... **Murray p36**
  - The Cross declares by the blood of Christ, our sin is paid in full ... The empty tomb shouts into the dark, the keys of death have been taken away ... Unlike Lazarus, on Sunday morning, the stone is rolled away from the tomb not to let Jesus out ... It's rolled away so we could see in ... So that, all who are in Christ can see for themselves – His resurrection guarantees our resurrection ... [5:24, 28-29](#) ... [1Cor15:21-22](#)
  - Though our body gives out, and we close our eyes for the last time, and though our funeral takes place ... Our soul is with the Lord ... When we're reborn, we are born “of the Holy Spirit,” “of imperishable seed” – meaning, the life of Christ takes up permanent residence in us, by the Holy Spirit ... As Jesus can never die, neither will those in whom His life has been given ... When Christ returns, our bodies are resurrected into a glorified body and rejoined with our soul – forever

- So, though our outward body wastes away, on this side of eternity, our inner person is being renewed day by day (2Cor4:16) ... Lazarus is raised with a body that will one day give out, again ... But he will go on living, with Christ, until the end, when every believer's body is resurrected unto a glorious body ... Jesus is raised with a glorified body ... One day, our bodies will be like His body is now ... It's an actual body – like what we possess now ... Yet will never endure sickness or disfunction or anything other than perfection ... Is there anything to fear concerning the grave?
- We should not live this life at the expense of the life to come ... We will spend eternity alive, either in heaven or in hell ... Which place we end up depends on where we place our faith ... If in Christ, then with Christ we'll live eternally ... If in anything other than Christ, then apart from Christ we'll live eternally
  - We were created to be eternal beings ... The resurrection of Jesus shows us this ... Our bodies were not created to rot in the ground ... We weren't created to be a blip on the screen ... Because of Jesus, what was supposed to be, now can be ... The power of death's grip has been loosened ... Death cannot hold on to what doesn't belong to it ... We don't belong to death anymore
  - We don't have to fear the unknown ... In Jesus, the unknown has been revealed ... Our eternity is secured ... Our life on this side of heaven, and our life on the other side, are both in His grip ... The grip of Life ... 5:24 ... 11:25-26 ...
- What else in life is of greater importance than knowing Christ Jesus? ... What greater gift can we give to our kids than discipling them to know and follow Christ? ... What stops us from living out the motto of Paul – **to live is Christ and to die is gain**? Or of Thomas ... Everything not of eternal value will pass away and be destroyed at some point ... Are the things we're pursuing in this life of eternal value or of the world? ... As parent's and grandparent's, what we pursue in this life bares a lot of influence on what our kids and grandkids pursue in life ... What are they seeing you pursuing after? ... What are you showing them is of greater importance in life?
- The life we should be living is the new life we've been given by Jesus ... We cannot live this life at the expense of the life to come ... Are you living for Christ ... Abiding in Jesus? ... Growing in your faith and growing in Christian community? ... Connecting with your neighbors? ... Living from the resurrected life Jesus has purchased for you?