

When You're In A Grave Situation!

John 11:1-11:44 (ESV)

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."

12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."

13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died,

15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him.

31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.

34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus wept.

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 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."

43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Grave situation = situation that is serious and sad, like when a loved one is very sick. It can also refer to something that causes fear or anxiety.

It's not over till God says it's over!

God can do anything!

God works in the dark!

Man's impossibilities are God's opportunities!

It teaches us that God is not glorified by our sin or sickness and disease...

But he IS glorified by our deliverance, our healing, and our salvation!

It's the same power that heals a headache that drives cancer out of your body!

It's never too late!

"I refuse to stay in a Grave situation!"

Lazarus represents a hopeless cause, an irreversible situation, a condition beyond repair...

That which seems to have gone beyond the point of Hope...

Beyond the point of no return...

And that which from all-natural evidence is dead and buried!

You may be in a GRAVE situation...

Things may seem UNSTABLE and you may feel UNABLE...

But He's prepared for you a TABLE and it's not just a FABLE...

He is still ABLE to transfer His power like a jumper CABLE...

You don't need weed or Johnny Walker Red LABEL...

You just need His to eat from His banqueting TABLE!

John 5:25 (ESV) - "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD, and those who hear will live.

When Lazarus Hears the Voice of Jesus he is resurrected!

Lazarus represents much of the church that has fallen asleep...

They are spiritually lifeless, dormant and powerless!

Lazarus was sick before he died!

The spirit of worldliness has poisoned the church!

Sin is poison to the body of Christ!

Hear me clearly... Sinners are invited and welcomed...

But sin is NOT!

Isaiah 1:5-6 (ESV)

5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.

John 11:3 (ESV) - So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

If you want to know why much of the church you see today for the most part is powerless...

Understand that it's because she's been drinking poison!

John 3:19 (ESV) - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

Jeremiah 6:15 - Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them," says the Lord.

Malachi 3:14-15 (Living Bible) - You have said: It is foolish to worship God and obey him. What good does it do to obey his laws, and to sorrow and mourn for our sins? From now on, as far as we're concerned, "Blessed are the arrogant" For those who do evil shall prosper and those who dare God to punish them shall get off scott-free.

The good news is that Lazarus was raised from the dead!

God is not afraid your mess!

Jesus is coming your way with the Words of life in His mouth

His love power will come to you right where you are!

John 11:43 (ESV) When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "LAZARUS, COME OUT!"

There is a call going forth to the sleeping church...

"LAZARUS, COME OUT!"

The Church is being called back to a book of acts anointing and power!

Why?

We have Kingdom work to do!